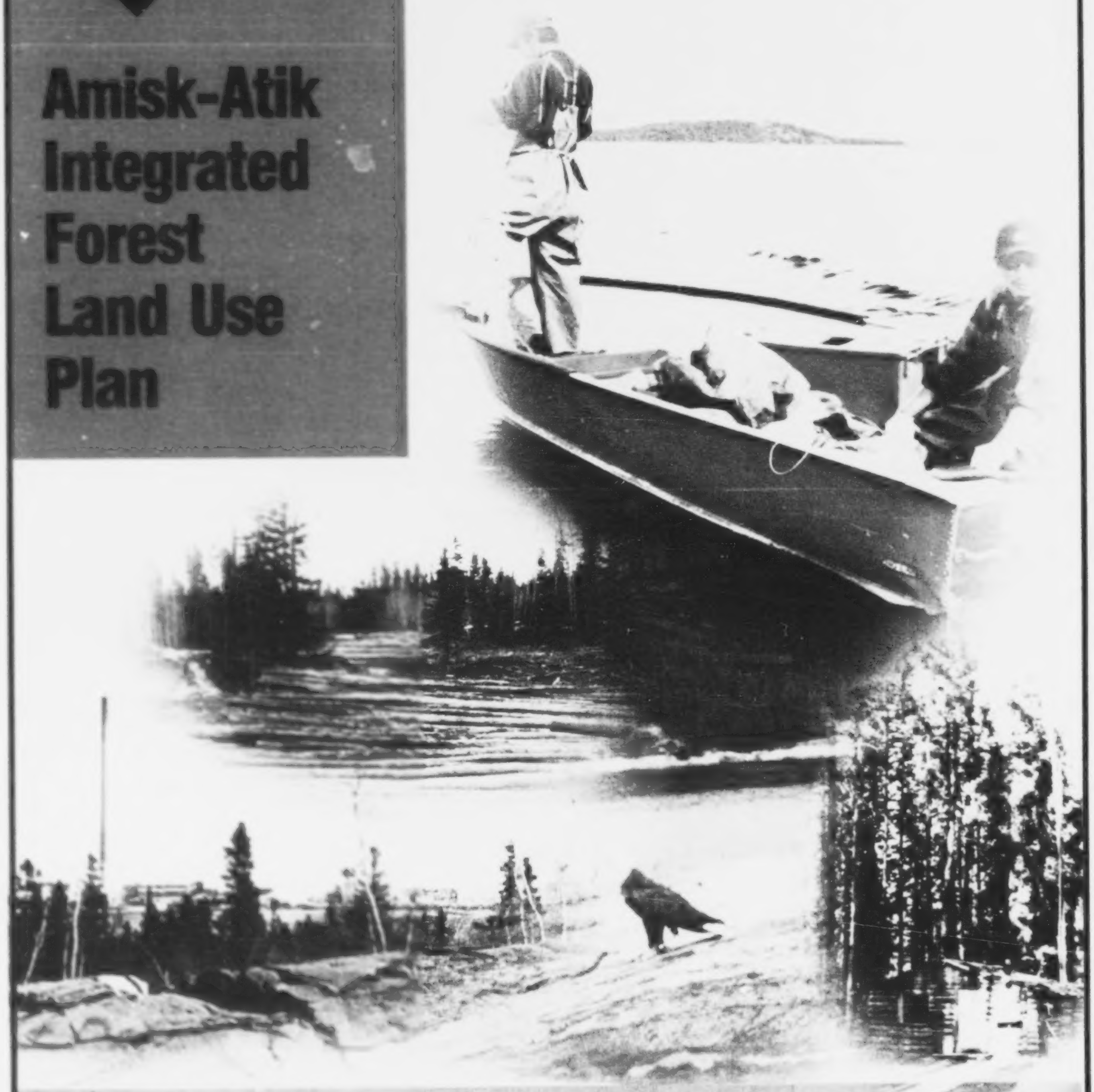
Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan



Saskatchewan
Environment

www.se.gov.sk.ca/forests/landuse

February 6, 2004

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan
Regional Advisory Board
PO Box 3003
PRINCE ALBERT SK S6V 6G1

Dear Members:

It gives me great pleasure to advise the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan is approved.

I am satisfied that the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, dated for reference March 2003, meets the requirements of section 15 of *The Forest Resources Management Act* and section 4 of *The Forest Resources Management Regulations*. Ministerial approval is effective as of October 2, 2003.

The approval of this plan concludes five years of work by many people. Working together you have produced a plan that will guide sustainable land use and resource management in the planning area. Each and everyone of you who has contributed to the planning process deserves a thank you.

Now that the Plan has been approved, we must turn our attention to implementation. In this regard, we intend to seek continued participation by local communities and Regional Advisory boards.

I look forward to your continued commitment and thank you once again for your dedicated effort in developing the Plan.

Sincerely,

David Forbes
Minister of Environment

Treaty Rights and traditional resource use

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan (the Plan) is not intended to add to or detract from existing Aboriginal or Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada that are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Throughout development of the Plan the Regional Advisory Board (RAB) was always aware of the important values and activities that are critical to maintaining and preserving traditional resource use activities and First Nations and Métis lifestyles.

The Plan reflects the above in Section 1.1, Table 1.2, and Section 1.6.

104-05875/

# Amisk-Atik
Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

Management Plan

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan covers approximately 4.4 million hectares of forested land in northeastern Saskatchewan. This plan will provide a framework for resource management and use in the planning area. The plan will provide direction for processes that will be ongoing throughout plan implementation: recommendations for public involvement; options for resolving conflict among resource users; strategies for monitoring and evaluating plan effectiveness once it is implemented and procedures to accommodate plan revision.

The land use plan has been developed according to the principles of Integrated Resource Management (IRM). Planning decisions have been made by looking at the health of the whole ecosystem and its various components---soil, water, plants, animals, and humans---to meet a variety of environmental, social, and economic objectives. Integrated resource management allows a broad range of uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. Protection of the ecosystem and economic development through sustainable resource use are key elements of proposed recommendations. The Land Use Plan is an evolving tool to guide activities within the planning area. Revisions to the plan may be made to accommodate new information.

The Management Plan, the core of the land use plan, is organized into the following sections:

- Chapter 1 sets out the goal, principles and objectives of the plan and provides planning and public involvement processes that have been and will be followed.
- Chapter 2 introduces the management areas (zones) and framework design with related operating guidelines for activities reflecting different resource uses and management needs.
- Chapter 3 highlights management strategies and Regional Advisory Board recommendations and action items developed through consultation with people in the planning area.
- Chapter 4 provides a summary of Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board recommended actions and implementation time frames.
- Chapter 5 presents information regarding implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the management plan. A mandatory five-year public review and continued involvement of the Regional and Local Advisory Boards will encourage

ongoing public involvement that may be required to accommodate new knowledge and changing conditions.

Two supporting documents, Background Document for plan development, and Appendices are also available.

The goal, principles and objectives establish the plan foundation. The goal provides overall direction as to the final results of plan implementation. Principles are basic beliefs that guide conduct and help determine the appropriate management decision. Objectives give more specific direction setting definite targets that contribute to meeting the plan goal.

The plan goal is:
To manage the use of the land and renewable and non-renewable resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area in an integrated and environmentally sound manner to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.

Land Use Management Areas (Zones) indicate areas where certain activities may or may not take place. Management areas divide the planning area into smaller land use management areas (zones), or areas which reflect different resource values, uses, and management needs. This is intended to minimize conflicts between non-compatible users, and to ensure that where activities occur, the health of the ecosystem is maintained. The plan recommends three Land Use Management Areas:

- **Protected Areas,** are management areas and sites with the greatest level of restrictions on use to ensure a high degree of protection of specific resources. The objective of this type of management area is to avoid disturbance of significant, unique, endangered, or rare resources.

- **Sensitive Areas,** consist of natural and cultural resources that are sensitive to disturbance. The objective of this management area is to provide the special management required to minimize impacts to resources and the environment, while allowing social and economic benefits to people utilizing the planning area.

- **Resource Management Areas,** are those areas that will allow sustainable and integrated development of a variety of activities. The objective of this management area is to accommodate environmentally sound ventures by providing direction and guidance that minimizes conflict and negative environmental impact.

Land Use Strategies identify issues and the Land Use Plan recommendations to address these issues. Regional Advisory Board recommendations provide management strategies that are supported by recommended action items with suggested implementation time frames for the apparent responsible parties.

- **A Strategy for Environmental Protection** based on sustainable resource allocation and integrated resource management that ensures the preservation of traditional lifestyles for people living in the area.
- **A Strategy for Heritage Resource Management** ensuring impact assessment required by the Heritage Property Act is completed prior to approval of new development projects.
- **Recognition of Traditional Land Use** and the importance and value of activities such as trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, gathering and the preservation of the lifestyle of Aboriginal and northern peoples.
- **A Strategy for Fisheries Management** that will ensure sustainable allocations, preserve habitat, provide increased opportunity and funding for economic development, and recognize local knowledge through consultation with affected resource users.
- **A Strategy for Wildlife Management** that will maintain ecosystem health, provide economic opportunity, preserve traditional lifestyles, and be based on sustainable resource management principles.
- **A Strategy for Protection and Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems** discusses issues and solutions related to harvesting, renewal and use of timber and other forest products, guidelines for roads and other linear developments, and protection of forest resources from fire, insects and disease.
- **A Strategy for Mineral Exploration and Mine Development** that will minimize impacts and provide protection and sustainability to the environment, and involve extensive public consultation prior to major developments.
- **A Strategy for Infrastructure Development** that speaks to essential requirements for public infrastructure including roads and electrical service to support economic development opportunities for the planning area.
- **A Strategy for other Developments and Land Dispositions** that includes a recreation cabin development proposal, wild rice, hydro electric and agriculture considerations.
- **A Strategy for Recreation and Tourism** that proposes improvements to facilities and recognizes important outdoor recreation activities.
- **A Strategy for Economic Development** that will provide opportunity to Amisk-Atik residents while preserving the traditional life styles of Aboriginal people.

- **A Strategy for Education, Monitoring, Enforcement, Compensation, and Consultation** that involve local people in all aspects and recognize we all share the resources of this land, and it is important to establish a level of trust and respect among different resource users.

The **Implementation Strategies for Plan Administration** are those that should be followed in order for resource management agencies to start implementing the plan. Monitoring and evaluation of the plan are essential to see that resource management goals are achieved, and to be able to change, revise and update the plan effectively if plan objectives are not being achieved. Public involvement and dispute resolution processes are important components to the success of the land use plan.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning area covers approximately 4.4 million hectares (ha) of forested land in northeastern Saskatchewan (See Figure 1-1). The name, 'Amisk-Atik', reflects both the geography of the region, and the strong traditional ties of Aboriginal peoples to the planning area. The land and natural resources of this area are used for a variety of purposes, including tourism, outdoor recreation, trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, forestry, mining and mineral exploration. Residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural developments are also apparent in the region. Ecological, aesthetic, cultural, heritage, spiritual, scientific, and economic values and benefits come from the use of this land rich with resources.

The Forest Management Agreement (FMA) to be developed by the partnership of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and a selected Industrial Forest Company will allow the Partnership to harvest and manage timber resources in the planning area (This partnership will be referenced throughout the document as the Forest Company).

The estimated total annual Harvest Volume Schedule for the planning area is 787,000 cubic meters of softwood and 256,000 cubic meters of hardwood. The Harvest Volume Schedule is the maximum sustainable timber volume that can be harvested each year, as determined or approved by the Minister. These estimates were calculated for those forest lands which are considered timber productive, are currently supporting a forest, and are not within designated protected areas or Indian Reserves. Actual harvestable volumes will be likely less, when operational constraints, merchantability constraints, environmental constraints, and the needs of other users and values are considered. See section 3.5.2.1 of the Background document for additional information on the Harvest Volume Schedule.

The residents of the Amisk-Atik Planning area recognize the need for the development and implementation of a management framework that will guide decision-making for land and resource use. The natural environment must be protected while still allowing for development opportunities that will enhance the social and economic condition of the area. A land use management plan will guide orderly and sustainable development, as well as conserve the area's resources. Ecosystem health and ecological sustainability will be maintained or improved by the concerted action of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan and other acts, regulations, policies, permits and licences (see Appendix 9: Provincial and Federal Legislation and Appendix 10: Provincial and Federal Related Policies and Guidelines).

The three components of this Integrated Forest Land Use Plan are the Management Plan, Background Document, and Appendices. The Management Plan contains Regional Advisory Board Recommended Strategies to address identified issues for the use of Amisk-Atik land and resources (see Appendix 1: Management Issues and the

Planning Process). The Background Document gives a general description of the Amisk-Atik planning area and the land use planning process that has taken place.

The intent of Chapter 1 is to provide an overview and general understanding of the contents of the plan. This chapter highlights the purpose and format of this management plan, outlines its goals, objectives, and principles, and familiarizes the reader with the planning and public involvement processes that have been and will be followed.

1.1 Purpose of This Management Plan

The purpose of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan is to provide general direction for the management of the provincial Crown land and resources found in the planning area. As a coordinating document, this land use plan will not only provide a framework for land and resource management, but it will also provide direction for such management concerns as public involvement, options for resolving conflict among resource users, and the development of strategies for monitoring and evaluating the plan's effectiveness once it is implemented. The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan serves to maintain the area's ecosystems by ensuring that a) renewable resource uses are sustainable; b) non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound; c) biological diversity is maintained; and d) negative impacts from all uses are minimized. The land use plan does not set or change resource allocations. However, the public consultation process does recommend the Minister study and review specific existing resource allocations.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan has been prepared to address the increasing demand on the area's land and resources that are of importance not only to the Amisk-Atik region, but also to the province as a whole. The plan considers all uses and values in the creation of land use strategies and attempts to minimize conflict among users. If area residents and other individuals are to continue to receive multiple benefits from the area, all of its land and resources must be maintained in a sustainable fashion. The diversity and productive capacity of all components of the land base must be maintained, while the resources can still be used to provide a wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits.

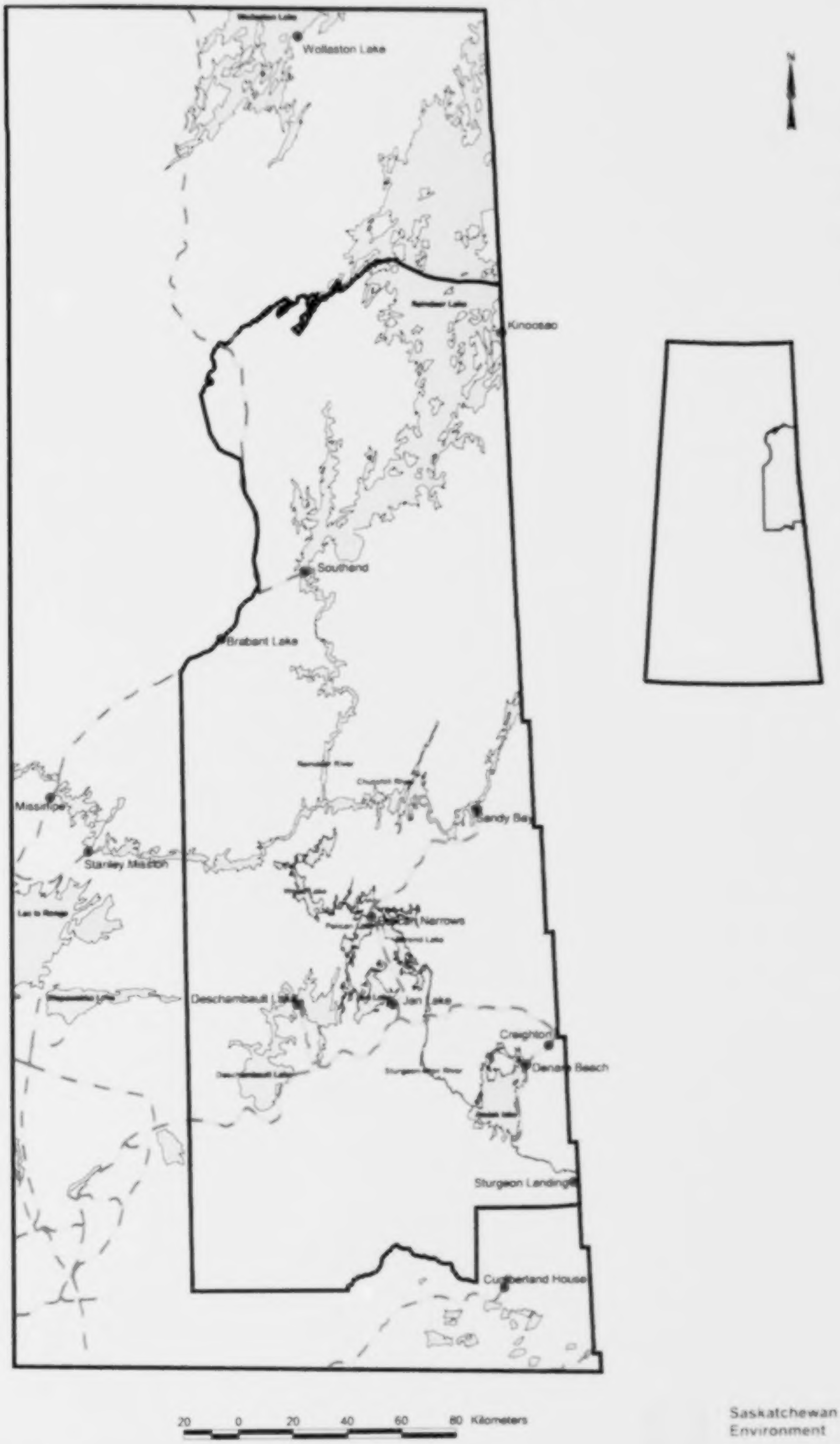
The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, or Amisk-Atik IFLUP, applies to all provincial Crown land found within the planning area's boundaries. While the plan's guidelines do not address the specific management needs of either private titled land or individual subdivisions, it provides a mechanism for coordinating the management of these areas with that of the larger planning area. The land use plan does not apply to either the reserve lands of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Indian Band or the municipal lands situated within the corporate limits of communities or on any other federally administered Indian reserve lands. However, a cooperative approach has been taken to ensure that the guidelines presented in this management plan are complementary to the management and development needs of these local communities.

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan acknowledges the following:

- Treaty and Aboriginal rights will not be compromised in any way through the implementation of this plan.
- All developments within the planning area must address environmental and other resource concerns. The land use plan and its guidelines will not replace the need for environmental assessments of resource developments. The Environmental Assessment Branch of SE is responsible for ensuring that all plans for future development activities are fully evaluated before commitments are made to proceed.

This land use plan has been developed according to the principles of **integrated resource Management**. Planning decisions have been made by looking at the health of the whole ecosystem and its various components— soil, water, plants, animals, and humans— to meet a variety of environmental, social, and economic objectives. Integrated resource management basically allows for a broad range of uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. Protection of the ecosystem and economic development through sustainable resource use are key elements of proposed recommendations.

Amisk-Atik Planning Area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Wollaston Lake
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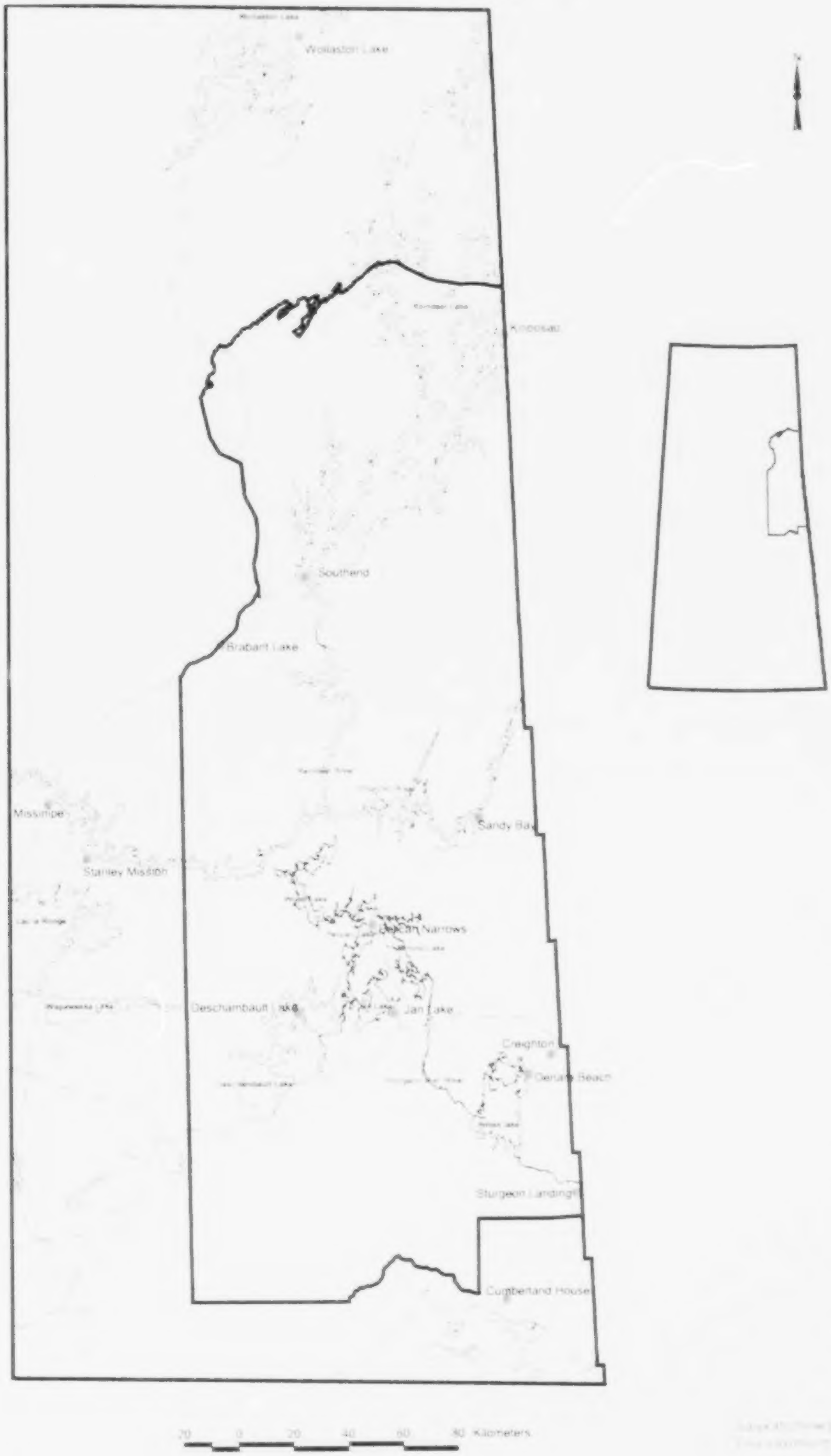
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 1-1

Amisk-Atik Planning Area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Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Figure 1-1

1.2 Management Plan Format

The format used to organize this document provides an overview of the general management requirements of the provincial Crown land and resources found in the planning area. This land use plan does not provide the level of detail that is presented in management tools such as provincial policy and legislation, lease agreements, and more detailed plans such as ecosystem and vegetation management plans. The intent has been to create a management plan that can be used not only by land and resource managers, but also by members of the general public.

This management plan has been organized into the following sections:

> **Chapter 1**: As an introductory section, Chapter 1 is intended to provide a brief overview of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. This chapter also outlines the goals, objectives, and principles of the management plan. In addition, it describes the public involvement and planning processes that have been used in the development of this plan.
>
> **Chapter 2**: The land use management areas (zones) that have been established in the Amisk-Atik planning area are presented. This chapter also introduces the framework that has been used to identify these management areas and the related general activity guidelines.
>
> **Chapter 3**: Land and resource issues were identified by the Regional and Local Advisory Boards to be addressed through the planning process (see Appendix 1: Management Issues and the Planning Process). Chapter 3 highlights the management strategies, Regional Advisory Board recommendations and action items, that have been developed by people in the planning area working as part of the Regional Advisory Board and Local Advisory Boards.
>
> **Chapter 4**: This chapter provides a summary of Amisk-Atik Regional and Local Advisory Board action items and implementation time frames. They are in order of expected implementation.
>
> **Chapter 5**: Information is presented regarding the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this management plan, which has been designed as a document subject to ongoing implementation and review by the Regional Advisory Board and the Local Advisory Boards and a mandatory five-year public review. The continued involvement of the Regional and Local Advisory Boards will help to ensure that members of the public have continued input into the management and development of the area. The plan must remain flexible, seeking out and accommodating new knowledge and changing conditions.

1.3 Goals, Objectives, and Principles of the Management Plan

The basis of this land use management plan consists of a number of components, including an overall goal and various objectives and principles. The goal provides the broad general direction for the plan, while the objectives are more specific in nature and provide greater focus as to the expected results of the land use planning process. Principles are basic beliefs that guide the decision-making efforts for land and resource management. Table 1.1 represents the goal and objectives of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, while Table 1.2 outlines the plan's principles. These principles and objectives have not been presented in any specific order of priority.

Economic and social development (including employment opportunities for local people) is important in the land use planning area, is reflected in the goal statement, and will be defined in the guiding principles statement which applies to the entire planning area. Specific issues will address economic development and social concerns.

Table 1.1: Goal And Objectives of The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

Plan Goal and Objectives

Plan Goal: To manage the use of land and renewable and non-renewable resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area in an integrated and environmentally sound manner to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.

Plan Objectives: The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan will:

- Apply the principles of integrated resource management to all resource management activities in the planning area.
- Develop clear land use guidelines that promote orderly development. These guidelines will specify the following: (1) what uses are allowed; (2) where these uses are allowed; and (3) limits on development.
- Promote the integration of planning processes between the existing jurisdictions in and adjacent to the planning area.
- Help resolve conflict among users through education, negotiation, separation of incompatible land uses, and other options to be considered.
- Provide a mechanism for ongoing public input into implementation of this land use plan.
- Develop standards to evaluate existing and future land uses.

- Develop inventories 1) of ecologically representative or unique species, 2) of important cultural, heritage, and recreational sites and, 3) for better management of forest resources.

- Provide a mechanism and procedure to implement, evaluate, and revise the land use plan from time to time.

- Support the maintenance of aesthetic values by forest users, for the benefit of all.

- Encourage through open dialog, the multiple use of the forest.

- Promote public education initiatives directed to the intelligent and environmentally aware use of the forest and its resources.

- Identify additional planning, study, or research needs.

- Encourage local employment and use of local goods, services, and businesses.

Table 1.2: Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan

Plan Principles The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan will:

- Seek to maintain the health of the area's ecosystems by ensuring that:
  - renewable resource uses are sustainable;
  - non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound;
  - encourage the opportunistic use of resources to avoid unnecessary wastage;
  - biological diversity is maintained; and
  - negative effects from all uses are minimized.

- Provide the opportunity for public consultation at all stages of plan implementation, monitoring and assessment. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board will be consulted and kept informed of developments in the planning area.

- Promote the needs and wishes of the communities and people living in and adjacent to the planning area and the people of Saskatchewan in general.

- Support sustainable resource use and developments that provide benefits to residents living in the Amisk-Atik area.

- Respect Aboriginal Rights, the Treaty rights of First Nations people, and the rights of all stakeholders.

- Consider all values when making management decisions. Values may include, but are not limited to, ecological, social, economical, cultural, and spiritual.

- Where appropriate, will make suggestions for the fair treatment of all resource users, fair distribution of access to resources, and fair distribution of resources.

- Encourage industries to work together in development of infrastructure and sharing of resources, and where appropriate, suggest specific directions to industrial forestry operations.

- Support land and resource uses that are sustainable environmentally, economically, and socially.

- Support existing business ventures and encourage the creation of new ventures in the planning area.

- Recognize and be consistent with current legislation and policies, and recommend changes where appropriate.

- Be flexible to adapt, when required, to new circumstances and information.

- Respect and value traditional resource uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. They are essential to the quality of life and lifestyle of northern people .

1.4 Public Involvement and Land Use Planning Processes

Public involvement has been an important component of the process used to develop this management plan. The Regional and Local Advisory Boards were established to work in an advisory capacity with the provincial government to prepare this document. Chapter 6 of the background document describes the creation of the Regional and Local advisory boards. Members of the Regional Advisory Board were responsible for organizing meetings, assisting in planning public meetings, preparing consensus recommendations, and editing the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Appendix 1 outlines the general land use planning process. Appendix 2 lists the people who participated as members of the Regional Advisory Board and Appendix 3 contains the Terms of Reference used by the Regional Advisory Board.

The role of the Regional Advisory Board for the Amisk-Atik IFLUP is to advise the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment, as to public opinion on resource management issues. SE retains the responsibility for allocating resources, implementing policies, and enforcing Acts and Regulations.

A number of provincial government departments provided necessary expertise when the advisory boards addressed specific topics, including fisheries, woodland caribou management, mineral exploration, mine development, and forestry. Recommended strategies, actions, special considerations and guidelines were developed by the Regional Advisory Board with the assistance of regulatory authorities and professionals such as biologists, foresters, land use planners and ecologists. Determination of the allowable harvest of timber for the planning area was an important component of the land use planning process. See section 3.5.2.1 of the Background document for information on the Harvest Volume Schedule.

The basic planning process that was used to develop the Amisk-Atik IFLUP consists of the following steps: (1) initiating the plan; (2) developing the plan (identifying and discussing issues, proposing recommendations for action, and developing a zoning framework); (3) reviewing and revising the plan. The Amisk-Atik IFLUP is to remain flexible and adaptable, therefore implementation and monitoring are critical ongoing steps. The participation of the public is required in the successful achievement of each of these steps. To ensure openness, the intent is for the Regional Advisory Board to participate, in an advisory capacity in plan implementation, monitoring, and amendment processes.

Appropriate and effective methods for public input are necessary for land use planning and implementation on an ongoing basis. A process is required to provide continued access to information, to identify common interests, and to provide avenues for joint problem-solving. Chapter 5 provides a more detailed discussion about how this planning process was adapted to the Amisk-Atik planning area and how public involvement was, and will continue to be, a constant contributing factor throughout this planning effort.

Appendix 4 contains a summary of all the Regional Advisory Board meetings held in the development of this plan, and a listing of all the Local Advisory Board meetings held in the communities within the planning area to gather input, guidance, and recommendations for the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

1.4.1 Ongoing Participation of Local and Regional Advisory Boards

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will rely on the Local and Regional Advisory Boards being structures well into the future. Local and Regional Advisory Boards provide valuable and ongoing input and direction. The implementation, monitoring, assessment, and amendment of the Amisk-Atik IFLUP depend on the ongoing participation of the community boards.

The land use plan provides a policy framework to guide resource management in the planning area. SE will make every effort to maintain the advisory capacity of the Local and Regional Advisory Boards to advise the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment. SE will ensure the boards are kept informed of proposed developments as directed by the Amisk-Atik IFLUP.
Proponents will be given direction by SE regarding consultation requirements, with affected resource users, Local and Regional Advisory Boards, and communities.

The Regional Advisory Board is expected to meet four times per year during initial implementation of the Land Use Plan (or as needed). Ongoing consultation with a Local Advisory Board or the Regional Advisory Board may be initiated by the boards themselves, SE, or as directed by the Amisk-Atik IFLUP.

Recommended Strategy
SE will work to maintain and establish Local and Regional Advisory Boards and assist the boards to develop terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future.

1.5 Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Approval Process

Section 14 of *The Forest Resources Management Act* (FRMA) states that "The Minister shall ensure that an integrated forest land use plan is prepared for every management unit for the purpose of co-ordinating policies, programs, and activities to guide and regulate existing and potential uses of land within that management unit."

Nothing in a plan lessens or reduces the amount of forest products made available to existing licensees under a licence granted prior to approval of the plan.

The completed draft land use plan was submitted for government technical review and public review. An independent review of the plan advised the Minister as to how effectively the plan met the requirements of section 15 of the FRMA. The plan may be approved by the Minister of Saskatchewan Environment. Approval does not elevate the plan's legal status beyond what the Act has conferred.

1.6 Legal Implications of this Land Use Plan

This Land Use Plan is a general statement of intent and provides the Public the opportunity to partner with Government in the management of the land and resources in the planning area. It is acknowledged that the Land Use Plan does not override existing provincial law or legislation. If this Plan is inconsistent with provincial legislation or regulations, the existing legislation or regulations continue to govern. Approval of the Plan does not elevate the Plan's legal status beyond what the relevant legislation has conferred.

This Land Use Plan does not alter the legislative authority of the provincial legislature or the regulation-making power of executive government, including the authority to manage, conserve and regulate natural resources. The Plan does not affect the ability of the Government of Saskatchewan to enforce the provisions of provincial legislation or regulations within Saskatchewan in a manner and to the extent considered appropriate. The Land Use Plan does not cancel, repeal, abolish or detract from the exercise of any statutory power of the Government of Saskatchewan.

This Land Use Plan is intended to respect the principles of administrative law. The Plan is not intended to be used or interpreted in such a way as to fetter the Minister's discretion or delegate the Minister's authority beyond the level authorized pursuant to existing legislation. Public consultation was critical in the development of the plan and provides the Minister with local knowledge and public input to create recommended actions and strategies that support protection and sustainable use of land and resources.

The implementation of various items in this Land Use Plan is subject to annual government budgeting approval procedures as set out in *The Financial Administration Act, 1993* and any other relevant statute or regulation. This Plan does not override, fetter or avoid such government budgeting processes.

This Land Use Plan does not remove the requirement to obtain licences, permits or other government authorizations which may be required pursuant to any legislation. This Land Use Plan does not affect or replace the environmental assessment requirements which may be triggered on a particular development by *The Environmental Assessment Act*.

This Land Use Plan is not intended to add or detract from existing Aboriginal or Treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada that are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

1.7 Relationship to Other Land Use Plans

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area is situated in Northeastern Saskatchewan. It is bordered to the North by the Athabasca Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the south by the Pasquia-Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the east by the Saskatchewan-Manitoba provincial border, and to the west by the North-Central Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. The North Central and Athabasca land use plans are being developed, while the Pasquia-Porcupine plan was approved in November 1998.

The Regional Advisory Board recognized that activities in one plan area could influence processes in the neighboring plan area. Many of the recommendations from the Pasquia-Porcupine plan were taken into consideration in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. Some recommendations were adapted to meet area needs and included in the Amisk-Atik management plan. In the same way, the adjoining North-Central, Athabasca, and Amisk-Atik land use plans have and will continue to give consideration to neighboring planning areas during their development, implementation, and if required, amendment processes. Traditional use areas for people in the communities of Southend, Kinoosao, Brabant Lake, and Deschambault Lake occur in more than one planning area. Resource users share traditional use areas. Special consideration will ensure that the opportunity for consultation is provided to resource users and communities during development of the Integrated Forest Land Use Plans.

It should be noted that Fur Conservation trapping areas N-9, N-10, N-35, and to a lesser extent N-5 extend across the boundary between the Amisk-Atik, North-Central and Athabasca land use plans.

Deschambault Lake members of the N-35 trapping area were actively involved in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. At the public meetings held to review the Amisk-Atik land use plan, members from N-9 trapping area formally requested that all of area N-9 be transferred to the North Central planning area. Trappers from N-5 and N-9 fur conservation area's formally expressed their interest in participating in the North-Central planning process. The community of Southend expressed their interest that all of Reindeer Lake should be included in the Amisk-Atik plan area. Ongoing consultation with all the affected parties, resource users and communities to resolve their interest concerning the Amisk-Atik planning area will continue. See also, section 3.17, Integration of Planning Processes.

Recommended Strategy
SE will assist the public, resource users, Local and Regional Advisory Boards involved in the development of land use plans, and provide the Public opportunity to provide input and participate in the development of Integrated Forest Land Use Plans for the protection and sustainable use of land and resources.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will continue to consult with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Chief and Council, and other affected resource users in efforts to resolve requested changes to the Amisk-Atik planning area.	Immediate/ongoing	SE All affected resource users

CHAPTER 2: LAND USE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the land use management areas that have been identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. A brief discussion is also presented on the framework used to establish these areas.

Zoning is a planning tool that is used to divide a larger defined area into smaller land use management areas which reflect different resource values, uses, and management needs. Figure 2-1 provides an overview of the specific land use management areas that have been identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.

2.1 Zoning Framework

A zoning framework is a management tool that is generic in nature. The same framework or type of management area can be used for different planning areas by "customizing" that framework to address the unique management and planning needs of an individual planning area. Allowed and not allowed activities can then be established to meet the specific requirements for individual planning areas that are in the same category. The framework that has been used for this management plan has established three Management categories: ***Protected Management Areas*** , ***Sensitive Management Areas*** , and ***Resource Management Areas***.

These management areas have been developed using a framework that consists of different categories of management. Each type of area plays its own unique role in the overall achievement of the goals and objectives of the land use plan. Varying degrees of protection and development of the planning area's provincial crown land and resources are provided by the specific types of management areas. Land use management areas generally indicate where certain activities may or may not take place. Zoning is also intended to minimize conflicts between non-compatible users and to ensure that, where activities occur, ecosystem health is maintained. A zoning framework assists in ensuring that social, economic, and environmental benefits are optimized when making decisions on allocation of land and resources.

2.2 Management Areas Identified in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

The framework noted above has been "customized" for the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. The discussion below provides a brief overview of the specific land use management areas that have been identified for this plan. Again, it is noted that Treaty and Aboriginal rights will not be compromised within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning Area.

2.2.1 Protected Management Areas

Protected areas are management areas and sites with the greatest level of restrictions on use to ensure a high degree of protection of specific resources. The objective of this type of area is to avoid disturbance of significant, unique, endangered, or rare resources. Examples of protected areas or sites include the following:

- areas of cultural significance such as archeological sites, burial sites, historical sites, and trails or travel routes;
- environmentally unique areas; and
- areas proven to contain endangered species.

Protected areas and sites have been identified in the planning area. Seven representative areas designated as Ecological Reserves meet the requirements of the Representative Areas Network Program. They are Seager Wheeler RA, Amisk Lake RA, Sturgeon-weir RA, Jan Lake RA, Mari Lake RA, Perry Lake RA, and Halldorson Bay RA. Areas recommended as protected sites include Meridian Creek and Frog Portage.

Over 500 recorded archaeological heritage sites exist in the planning area. Fifty of these are "sites of a special nature". These sites include mainly ancient rock paintings and burial sites and are afforded special protection under section 64 of the Heritage Property Act. All other recorded (and yet undiscovered) archaeological heritage sites which have potential scientific, economic, public, cultural, or other value are also protected.

Appendix 5 provides detailed management plans for the protection areas and a description of the proposed protected sites. Allowed and not allowed activities established by the management plans are supported by existing regulations and policies set by Government Departments of the Province of Saskatchewan.

2.2.2 Sensitive Management Areas

Sensitive areas are highly valued traditional resource use areas consisting of natural and cultural resources that are sensitive to disturbance. Any development or activity that would occur in a special management area may have precautions, constraints, or conditions designed to minimize any impact on resources and affected resource users. For example, sensitive areas in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area provide special management guidelines for watersheds, protection of Woodland Caribou, protection of fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning, aesthetic zones, sustainable allocation and resource use, and preservation of traditional lifestyles.

Sensitive management areas minimize impacts to resources and the environment, while allowing social and economic benefits to people utilizing the planning area. Government regulation and policy for the resource management area are also applicable to the sensitive areas established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land

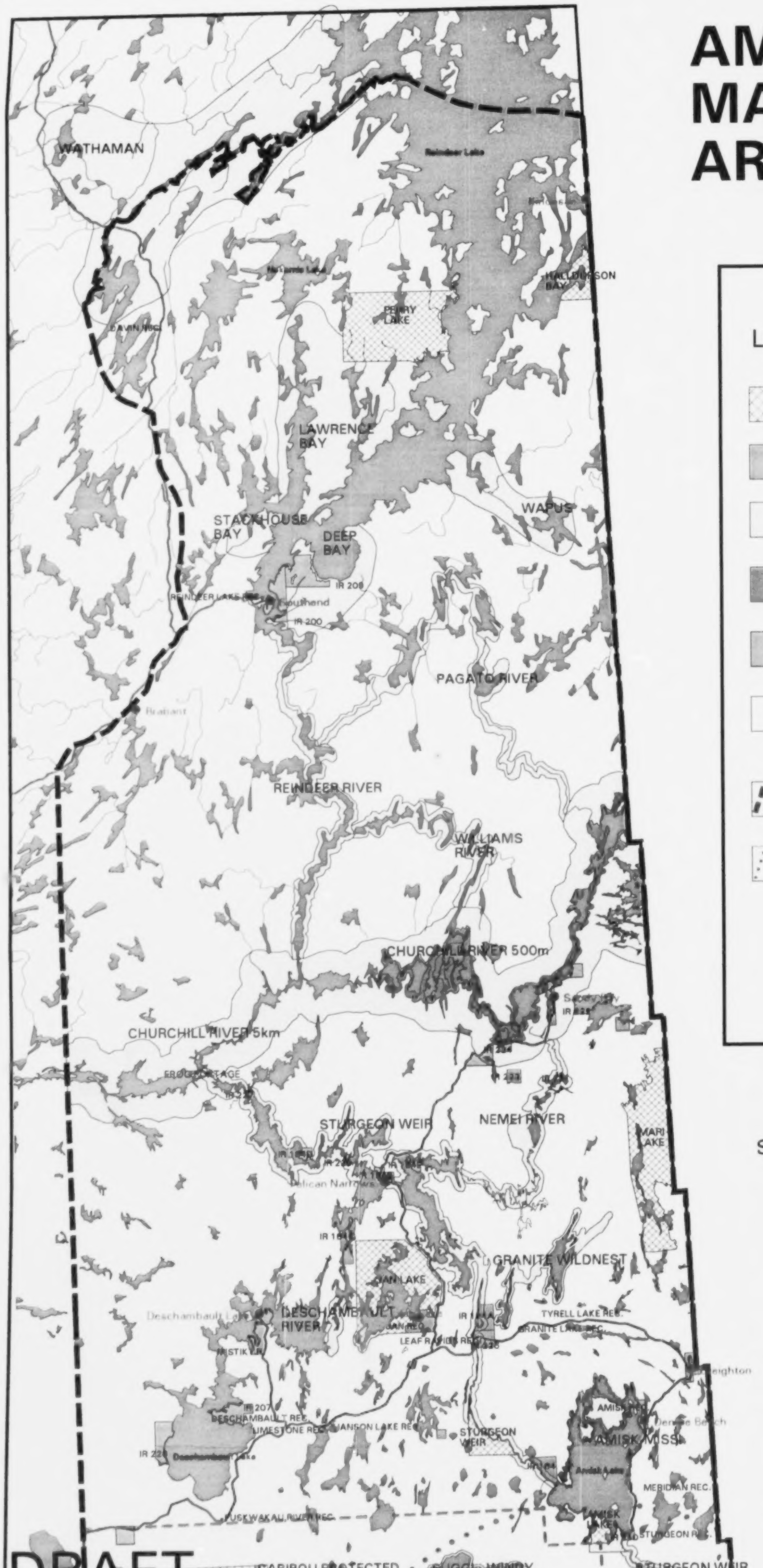
Use Plan. Operating guidelines for sensitive areas give special emphasis to and reinforce existing regulations and policies applied to the resource management area.

Operating guidelines identify allowed activities for specific types of developments and utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources within the sensitive areas. Table 2.1 provides common operating guidelines required for sensitive areas. These operating guidelines are to be applied to all sensitive areas in support of existing government Acts and regulations.

Table 2.2 identifies operating guidelines required for specific activities in sensitive areas. These operating guidelines are to be applied to all sensitive areas specific to a particular activity or planned development.

Special considerations required for specific sensitive areas are detailed in Table 2.3. These sensitive areas were identified through public consultation with affected resource users and communities.

AMISK - ATIK MANAGEMENT AREAS


WATHAMAN
Reindeer Lake
HALLIDERSON BAY
PERRY LAKE
LAWRENCE BAY
WAPUS
STACKHOUSE BAY
DEEP BAY
IR 200
REINDEER LAKE
Southend
IR 200
PAGATO RIVER
Brabant
REINDEER RIVER
WILLIAMS RIVER
CHURCHILL RIVER 500m
CHURCHILL RIVER 5km
FROG PORTAGE
STURGEON WEIR
NEMEI RIVER
MARI LAKE
Pelican Narrows
GRANITE WILDNEST
DESCHAMBAULT RIVER
Deschambault Lake
TYRELL LAKE REC.
GRANITE LAKE REC.
LEAF RAPIDS
MISTIK
IR 207
DESCHAMBAULT REC.
LIMESTONE REC.
HANSON LAKE REC.
STURGEON WEIR
Creighton
Denare Beach
AMISK MISSI
Amisk Lake
MERIDIAN REC.
AMISK LAKE
STURGEON R.
IR 220
PUSKWAKAU RIVER REC.
DRAFT
CARIBOU PROTECTED
SUGGI - WINDY LAKES
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
SEAGER WHEELER
IR 20A 20B
Cumberland House

LEGEND

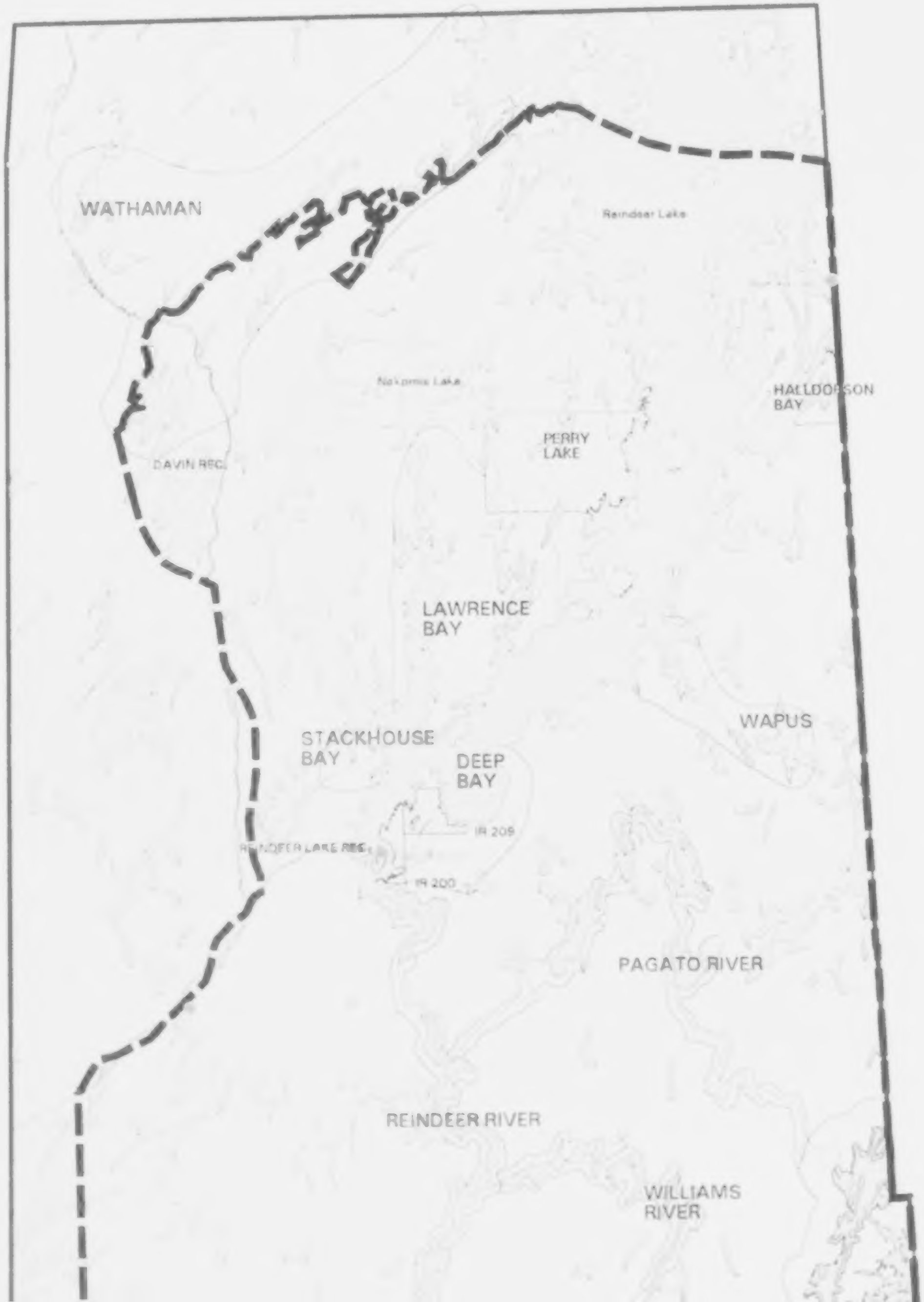
- ▨ PROTECTED AREAS
- ▒ EXCLUSIONS
- □ SENSITIVE AREAS
- ■ SENSITIVE AREAS (LINE OF SIGHT)
- ▒ SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLANTS, MUSHROOMS
- □ RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA
- ▚ CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
- ⁘ CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Scale 1 : 1,000,000

Figure 2-1

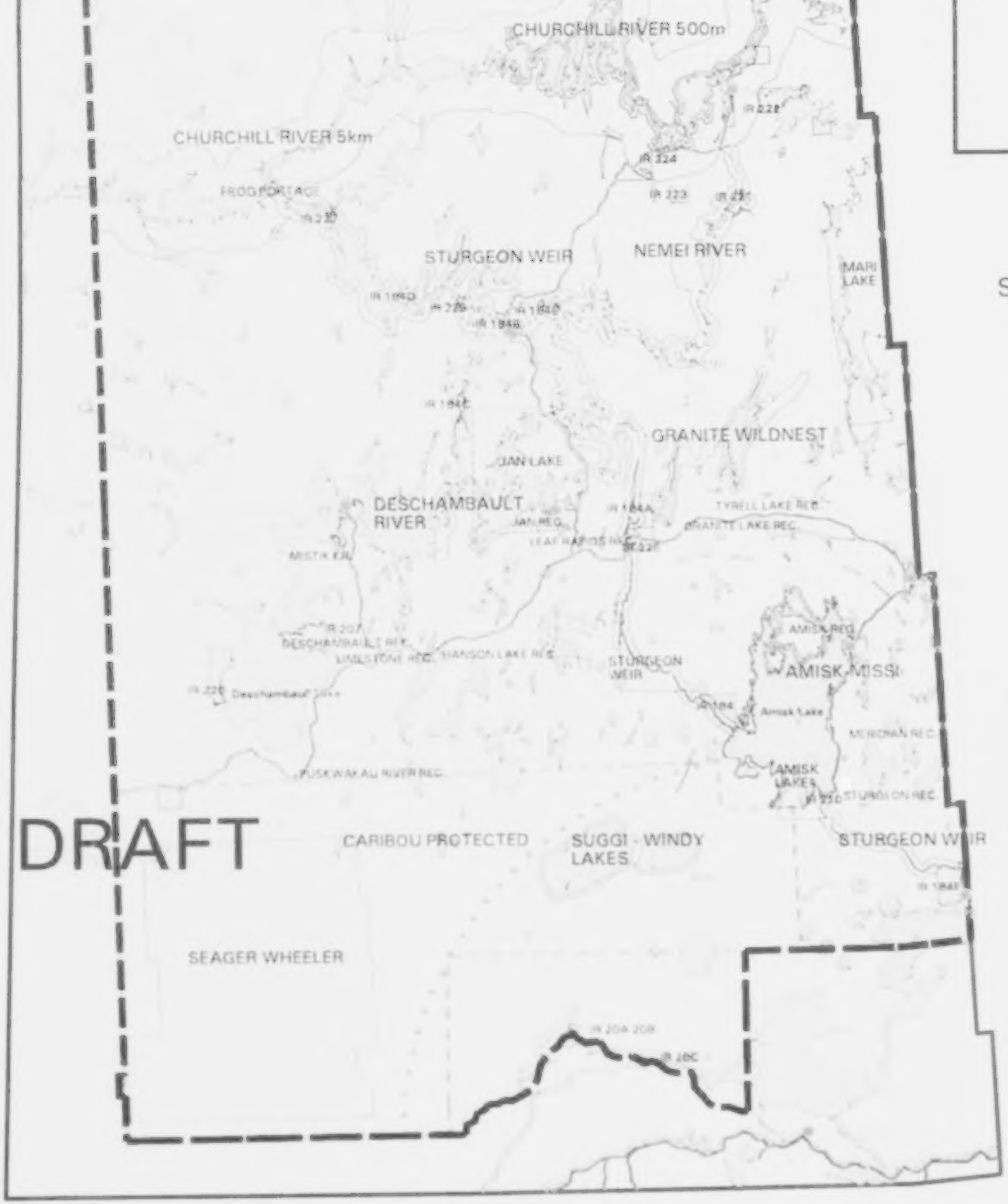
Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 27 Mar 03

AMISK - ATIK MANAGEMENT AREAS


WATHAMAN
Reindeer Lake
Nokomis Lake
HALLDORSON BAY
PERRY LAKE
DAVIN REC.
LAWRENCE BAY
WAPUS
STACKHOUSE BAY
DEEP BAY
IR 209
REINDEER LAKE REC.
IR 200
PAGATO RIVER
REINDEER RIVER
WILLIAMS RIVER

LEGEND

- PROTECTED AREAS
- EXCLUSIONS
- SENSITIVE AREAS
- SENSITIVE AREAS (LINE OF SIGHT)
- SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLANTS, MUSHROOMS
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA
- CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
- CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE


CHURCHILL RIVER 500m
CHURCHILL RIVER 5km
FROG PORTAGE
IR 222
IR 224
IR 223
IR 221
STURGEON WEIR
NEMEI RIVER
MARI LAKE
IR 184D
IR 229
IR 184E
IR 184B
IR 184C
GRANITE WILDNEST
JAN LAKE
DESCHAMBAULT RIVER
JAN REG.
IR 184A
TYRELL LAKE REC
GRANITE LAKE REC
LEAF RAPIDS REC
IR 227
MISTIK EJR
IR 207
DESCHAMBAULT REC
LIMESTONE REC
HANSON LAKE REC
STURGEON WEIR
AMISK REG
AMISK-MISSI
IR 220
Deschambault Lake
IR 184
Amisk Lake
MERIDIAN REC
PUSKWAKAU RIVER REC
AMISK LAKES
IR 230
STURGEON REC
DRAFT
CARIBOU PROTECTED
SUGGI - WINDY LAKES
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
SEAGER WHEELER
IR 20A 20B
IR 20C

Scale 1 : 1,000,000

Figure 2-1

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 27 Mar 03

Table 2.1 Common Operating Guidelines for all Sensitive Areas

Development of new trails only when required. Maximize the use of existing trails. Existing roads and trails are to be incorporated into integrated and comprehensive access development plans.
New developments should not create permanent access to lake shores and the banks of major rivers. Temporary access is preferred. The number of stream crossings approved must minimize impacts to water quality and water resources. Limiting access will reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources and help ensure sustainable resource use and allocation.
Waste management required by regulation or as defined in operating guidelines. A waste management plan is required, subject to review and approval by SE.
Developments permitted based on approved comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles and sustainable resource use and allocation.
Any legal requirement for compensation to be negotiated with affected and third parties.
Buffer widths and areas will be defined in operating guidelines. Buffer size requirements may be changed by SE or through consultation with local people.
Consultation with affected resource users, affected communities and the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board may be required prior to and throughout project development. SE required to ensure proponents for major development projects provide meaningful opportunity for consultation.
Social and economic benefits and opportunities should be provided to Amisk-Atik communities and local people whenever possible.
The environment must be protected. Developments required to minimize air, water, land, and noise impacts. Traditional land use and lifestyle are to be recognized within and prior to all approved development processes.
Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. The impact should be considered at an appropriate ecological scale prior to SE approval.
To protect the ecosystem, assessment may require that special planning and management be done at the eco-site level. Detailed study and analysis of very small portions of the planning area may be required to protect critical habitat or ensure the environment is protected.
Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure mandatory decommissioning of completed projects. SE will monitor and enforce applicable Acts and regulations.
SE will develop a process that will ensure reporting requirements and ongoing consultation by the proponent with affected resource users as individual projects develop and become operational.
Monitoring to be the responsibility of the proponent. SE will ensure mitigation of detrimental impacts be carried out in a timely manner.
Development on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size is not allowed. Activities related to traditional resource use are allowed. The EIA process may allow “mine structures” that would not negatively impact a small island. Comprehensive development plans for projects on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size must be submitted to SE for review and approval.
Approval for the introduction of exotic species will be controlled and monitored by SE to ensure ecosystem biodiversity is protected and maintained.

Utilization standards must ensure optimum economic benefits will be realized from the utilized resource. SE requires that the whole ecosystem and all resource values be given consideration to ensure ecological, economical, and social benefits for present and future generations.
A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Table 2.2 Operating Guidelines for Specific Activities in Sensitive Areas

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Traditional Resource Use
Traditional resource use, Treaty rights and Aboriginal rights of First Nations people are in no way limited by the zoning concepts established by the Amisk-Atik land use plan.
Applicable laws are enforced by existing government regulation and in special circumstances Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Band Council Resolution.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Cultural Camps and Historic Site Development
Zoning created by Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommends limits, and does not allow new infrastructure in specified areas.
Development of cultural and historic sites will be as per existing regulations. Heritage resource impact assessment, particular to section 63 of the Heritage Property Act, may be required by the Minister.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Archeological Sites
Development of archeological sites are as per existing regulations defined by the Heritage Property Act.
The Amisk-Atik planning area's rich Aboriginal history must be respected. Findings must be immediately reported to the appropriate authorities, local people and affected communities.
The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the local communities will be consulted prior to approval of proposed projects involving archeological discovery and development.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Outfitting Operations
Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Wild Rice Operations
Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Existing Fishing Operations
Commercial, domestic, and sport fishing activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Sand and Gravel Quarrying
Only seasonal motorized access will be allowed when conditions justify.
Comprehensive development plans to be submitted to SE for review and approval. Integrated resource management planning is required.
Safety considerations may require that berms be established. Posting signs to ensure public safety is the responsibility of the proponent and will be monitored by SE.
Access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the area. New developments require a 200 meter buffer from major access routes. Landscaping may be a viable alternative which could affect the buffer width required. SE consideration of special requests may alter the required buffer width.
Sand and gravel quarrying activity not allowed on islands; SE review of comprehensive development proposals may allow development for exceptional circumstances.
Reclamation and decommissioning of completed projects is required by the proponent.
Monitoring to be the responsibility of the proponent. Mitigation of detrimental impacts to be carried out by the proponent in a timely manner.
Access to new resources should provide economic and social benefits to local people and communities in the planning area whenever possible. Approved access to sand and gravel for locals and communities is subject to and will consider the public agency requirements of Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation and Municipal Government prior to SE approval.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Commercial and Industrial Development
Campgrounds are permitted in designated areas.
Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles (Environmental Impact Assessment may be required by the Minister).
Commercial development on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size not allowed. Comprehensive development plans required prior to approval for developments on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size.
Resource allocations will be sustainable, consider all values and affected resource users. Utilization standards will ensure optimum economic benefits from the utilized resource.
Monitoring the effects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Recreational Activities
All forms and types of recreation are encouraged. Respect for surroundings will ensure that the values on the land and in the water, will be preserved now and for the future. Allowed and not allowed activities are enforced through existing regulations and policies.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Residential Developments (sub-division)
Development permitted in approved zoning areas based on comprehensive development plan review and approval.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Cabin Development
Existing cabins will be regulated, replaced, and allocated based on existing regulations.
Zoning created by Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommends limits and does not allow cabin development in specified management areas. See table 2.3 Special Considerations.
Traditional resource use cabin numbers and locations to be co-ordinated between SE and the affected fur blocks.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Forestry
Forest operations should restrict permanent access to lake shores and the banks of major rivers. The required stream crossings must minimize impacts to water resources. Temporary access preferred so that impacts to resources are reduced.
Mandatory reporting of all activities as required by applicable operating ground rules defined by the Annual Operating Plan, Term Supply Licence and Forest Management Plan Agreements.
Forest operations on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size are not allowed. Consultation with local people is required for planned harvest operations on islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size. Line of sight and reduced visibility of harvest operations from the water are key factors identified in consultation with local people.
Consultation with local people for all annual operating plans and forestry developments are required by SE and the proponent. The Proponent will consult the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board on Forest Management Agreement (FMA) development plans.
Utilization standards as set out in the operating guidelines will be designed to balance ecological requirements, maximize fiber utilization, use all species, and provide opportunity for diversification.

Planned decommissioning of roads and landings and reforestation of harvested areas is required. Harvested sites that require planting will be initiated within two years of being harvested. Well stocked regeneration with the appropriate tree species for all harvested sites should occur within 10 years. Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure environmental protection requirements are met.
Monitoring the effects of forest management activities on forest ecosystem health should be a responsibility of the FMA holder. A process to provide the opportunity for local people to participate, provide input, and assist monitoring is required.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Mining
Monitoring the effects of mining developments on the environment should be the responsibility of the proponent. A process should provide local people the opportunity to participate and provide input to the monitoring process.
Environmental assessment may be required by the Minister.
The proposal should identify research activities required for initial and ongoing project operation and development.
Assessment for approval and development should consider all values and possible impacts to other resource values and the environment.
Financial assurance and performance bonds are required to ensure decommissioning of the site.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for Mineral Exploration
Only seasonal motorized access will be allowed when conditions justify.
Comprehensive exploration plans to be submitted to SE for review and approval. Integrated resource management planning is required to ensure environmental impacts are minimized.
Mandatory reporting may be required. SE will assist development of a process that will ensure reporting requirements and ongoing consultation with affected resource users.
Projects carried out on islands should minimize impacts to islands. Line of sight and reduced visibility of exploration activity from the water are key factors identified in consultation with local people.
Monitoring the effects of exploration activities should be the responsibility of the proponent. A process for local people to participate, provide input, and query activities should be established.

Recommended Operating Guidelines for New Road Development
Existing roads and trails are to be utilized and incorporated into integrated and comprehensive access development plans.
SE may require the proponent to limit the number of people and type of activity allowed to ensure sustainable resource use. Road development may provide opportunities for new resource allocations and developments. Opportunities should provide social and economic benefits to local people whenever possible.

Decommissioning and reforestation must comply to operating guidelines and existing Government regulations.
Financial assurance and performance bonds may be required to ensure environmental standards protect the forest ecosystem.

Recommended Guidelines for Eco-Tourism Development
Limiting the number of people and type of activity allowed for new proposed developments to ensure environmental protection and minimize impacts to other resource users are minimized.
Requires SE review and approval of a comprehensive development plan. SE review and approval process to include consultation with affected resource users and the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board.
Development of infrastructure for eco-tourism purposes is not allowed on islands less than 2.5 hectares in size, however, eco-tourism activities are allowed. Comprehensive development plans are required for islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size.
Monitoring the affects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.
A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts on the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Guidelines for Agriculture Development
Waste management plans are required.
Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles (environmental impact assessment may be required).
Monitoring the efects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.
A planned change of land use which would alter the potential impacts to the land and environment may require conversion of an existing lease. SE will assess the possible impacts of conversion and ensure consultation with affected resource users occurs prior to granting approval for conversion of the existing lease.

Recommended Guidelines for Conducting Research Activity
Requires comprehensive development plans incorporating integrated resource management principles. (Environmental Impact Assessment may be required by the Minster)
Monitoring the affects of the development is the responsibility of the proponent. If problems occur, mitigative measures must be carried out in a timely fashion.

Table 2.3: Special Considerations for Specific Areas

(Areas defined on Management Area / Zoning Map (Figure 2-1), unless otherwise specified.)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Granite/ Wildnest	defined area around Granite and Wildnest lakes	500 m	Sensitive	•first opportunity for tree planting in the area requested by trappers in fur block N32 (Birch Portage) • consultation with trappers for proposed harvest operations and other developments
Suggi/Windy	defined area around Suggi and Windy lakes	500 m	Sensitive	•consultation with Cumberland House prior to approval of development proposals (important traditional use area)
Amisk Lake/Missi Island	defined area along shoreline of Amisk Lake and Missi Island	variable/ line of sight, see Figure 2-2 *Special Management Areas - Amisk Lake & Missi Island*	Sensitive	•harvest operations and proposed developments must not be visible from the water; line of sight restriction on all developments •rare and endangered plant areas identified for protection (important traditional use area)
Deep Bay	defined area along shoreline of Deep Bay on Reindeer Lake, running south and west to the community of Southend	variable	Sensitive	•consultation with Southend on all proposed developments (important traditional use area)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Sturgeon-weir River South	defined area (corridor) along Sturgeon-weir River from Sturgeon Landing north to (Leaf Rapids) Highway 106	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sturgeon Landing, Creighton /Denare Beach, and local users *minimum buffer for all new developments is 200 meters, access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the river, SE consideration of special requests may alter the buffer width required. *agriculture developments not allowed *no new structures/seasonal camps only *source for Sturgeon Landing drinking water/ ensure water quality and supply *SE to monitor recreation use and establish a use threshhold or limit the number of people, and establish development requirements for tourism *historical significance/ report all findings (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)
Sturgeon-weir River North	defined area (corridor) along the Sturgeon-weir River from Leaf Rapids (Highway 106) north to Frog Portage at the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Deschambault Lake, and affected resource users *residential sub-division development permitted with comprehensive development plan approval *cottage developments not allowed on Wood, Trade, and Uskik lakes (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)
Reindeer River	defined area (corridor) along the river from Reindeer Lake south to the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing/historical travel route)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Pagato River	defined area (corridor) along the river which joins the Reindeer and Churchill River systems	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake, Sandy Bay, and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Williams River	defined area (corridor) of the Williams River system running east of the Reindeer River through Gilbert and Pauline Lakes, then south through Guilloux Lake to the Churchill River	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay, Southend Reindeer, and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Nemei River	defined area (corridor) travel route follows the river and lakes; joins the community of Sandy Bay to Pelican Narrows	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows and affected resource users (important traditional use area, existing / historical travel route)
Deschambault River	defined area (corridor) along Deschambault River; connects Deschambault Lake and Pelican Lake	1 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Deschambault Lake, Jan Lake, Pelican Narrows, and affected resource users (sensitive watershed/ traditional use area, historic travel route)
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from Wintego Lake to the Manitoba border	500 m on both sides of river	Sensitive	*line of sight, maintain visual integrity, no developments allowed in area without consultation with the community of Sandy Bay *consultation with Sandy Bay and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from 500 meters to 5 Km both sides of the Churchill River from Wintego Lake to the Manitoba border	500 m to 5 km on both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with Sandy Bay and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)
Churchill River	defined area (corridor) along the Churchill River from the western edge of the planning area at 104 degrees of longitude east to Wintego Lake	5 km, both sides of river	Sensitive	*consultation with all communities and affected resource users (sensitive watershed, important traditional use area, historic/existing travel route)
Stackhouse Bay traditional use area	defined area southern end of Stackhouse Bay, Reindeer Lake northwest of Southend Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Wapus traditional use area	defined area Wapus Bay on Reindeer Lake running southeast along Wapus River to Wapus lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Lawrence Bay traditional use area	defined area including Cowie Lake, Numabin and Lawrence Bay on Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	* consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake and affected resource users (important traditional use area)
Wathaman traditional use area	defined area including Wathaman Lake and river system running east to Vermillion Bay on Reindeer Lake	variable	Sensitive	*consultation with Southend Reindeer Lake and affected resource users (important traditional use area)

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Reindeer Lake flood zone	defined area includes all lakeshore land on Reindeer Lake below elevation 338.0 meters ASL	legally defined/ not defined on map	excluded from development/ liability issue	* SaskPower request to SE to not allow development below elevation 338.0 meters on lakeshore of Reindeer Lake (no liability to Government for structures flooded/damaged by operation of Whitesands Dam)
Community Areas of Influence	defined areas for all communities	variable, see Figure 2-3, *Community Areas of Influence*	integrate planning/ development	*consultation with all affected communities for long range planning of proposed developments
SaskPower Full Supply Line for Potential Hydro Development	area of the Churchill River/ map provided by SaskPower	See Sec.3.8.7 Hydro Electric Development.	Sensitive	* the prescribed zoning established by the Regional Advisory Board allows developments based on comprehensive development plan review and approval *comprehensive development plans for proposed hydro projects may be submitted to SE *SE will ensure impacts of new development to affected resource users, SasksPower and Industry are considered during review for approval process.
Cumberland House Community Circle	defined area/ 65 km circle around Cumberland House		general management area/ sensitive	*transfer of title for selected Crown lands to Cumberland House *selected lands in the area will complete compensation package for previous hydro development *consultation with Cumberland House required prior to SE approving developments in community circle

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Woodland Caribou Special Management Area	defined area within the Mossy River Plain and Namew Lake Uplands Landscape Areas of the Mid-Boreal Lowlands Ecoregion including Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area and the Suggi Lowlands.	5300 square kms	Sensitive	•protect known or suspected caribou home ranges from adverse effects of development, following guidelines established by SE and RAB. •timber harvest operations only in winter. •follow guidelines established in an access management plan that minimizes road and trail development and ensures decommissioning through use of existing, or development of temporary roads and trails with restoration to natural conditions as soon as possible after use. •design forest harvest and silviculture plans to maintain, preserve and promote adequate foraging lichens. •protect critical caribou habitat from development - related disturbance(physical disruption, noise, etc.) with specific reference to fall rutting areas, winter and spring feeding areas, and calving locations. •protect ground water sources, fens and muskegs from drainage activity, contamination, minimize physical disturbance related to: surface and sub-surface excavation; and removal of organic matter (peat) •restrict conventional vehicle access for new developments. •SE communicate with, educate and involve the public in strategy to promote and monitor area for caribou. •manage landscapes to mimic natural disturbances •Government / Industry develop inventory of critical habitats. •whenever possible consider applying these guidelines to the entire Resource Management Area.

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Areas designated for the protection of medicinal plants	areas requested and defined by medicine men and women in nearby communities		sensitive	•preservation of the supply of medicinal plants, some rare and endangered •maintain easy access to known and valued plants •consultation with affected communities required prior to operation approval by SE. (important traditional use area)
Areas designated for the protection of traditional mushroom gathering	areas requested and defined by nearby communities		sensitive	•maintain easy access to known and valued crop for traditional gathering •primarily for personal consumption, but also important benefits to local economy through public sale of product. •consultation with locals prior to operations approval by SE. (important traditional use area)
Areas designated to protect fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning	areas requested by nearby communities and resource users be submitted to SE; Band Council Resolution by the Chief and council of PBCN and consultation with all affected users required	as defined in the Saskatchewan Anglers Guide Areas posted by SE	Sensitive	•seasonal protection of sensitive watersheds •specific dates are established to protect Fish stocks in defined areas •locations of existing fish spawn closures can be obtained from Regional Saskatchewan Environment offices

Name	General Area	Size	Area	Special Considerations
Game corridors along major access routes may be established to protect wildlife species Management for the protection of wildlife	Establishing game corridors may be initiated by SE in consultation with First Nations and affected resource users; Band Council Resolution by the Chief and Council of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and consultation with all affected resource users required	As defined in the Sask-atchewan Hunting and Trappers guide Areas posted would be signed by SE	Sensitive	*corridors established for the protection of wildlife *restrictions on hunting

2.2.3 Resource Management Area

Resource Management Areas are those areas that will allow sustainable and integrated development of a variety of activities. The objective of this management area category is to accommodate environmentally sound ventures by providing direction and guidance that minimizes conflict and negative environmental impact. The majority of the planning area has been zoned as resource management lands. These lands can also be sensitive to disturbance. Therefore the common operating guidelines and activity guidelines applied to sensitive areas should receive consideration by SE during the review and approval of planned activities and developments in the resource management area.

Integrated and sustainable development and use of renewable and non-renewable resources in the resource management area are covered by existing regulations and policies as set out by Government Departments of the Province of Saskatchewan. Unless otherwise noted Government regulations and policy for the resource management area are also applicable to the sensitive and protected management areas established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

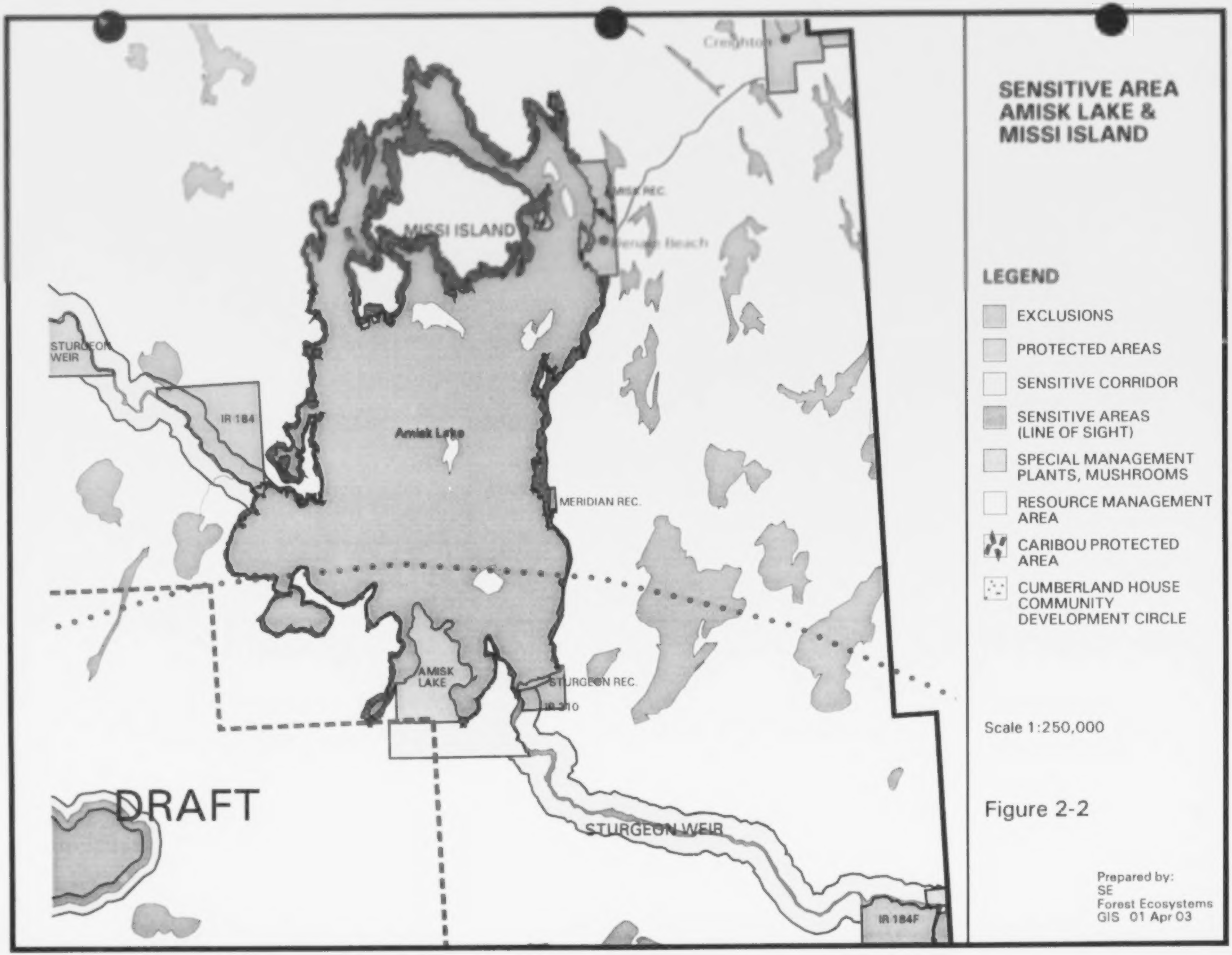
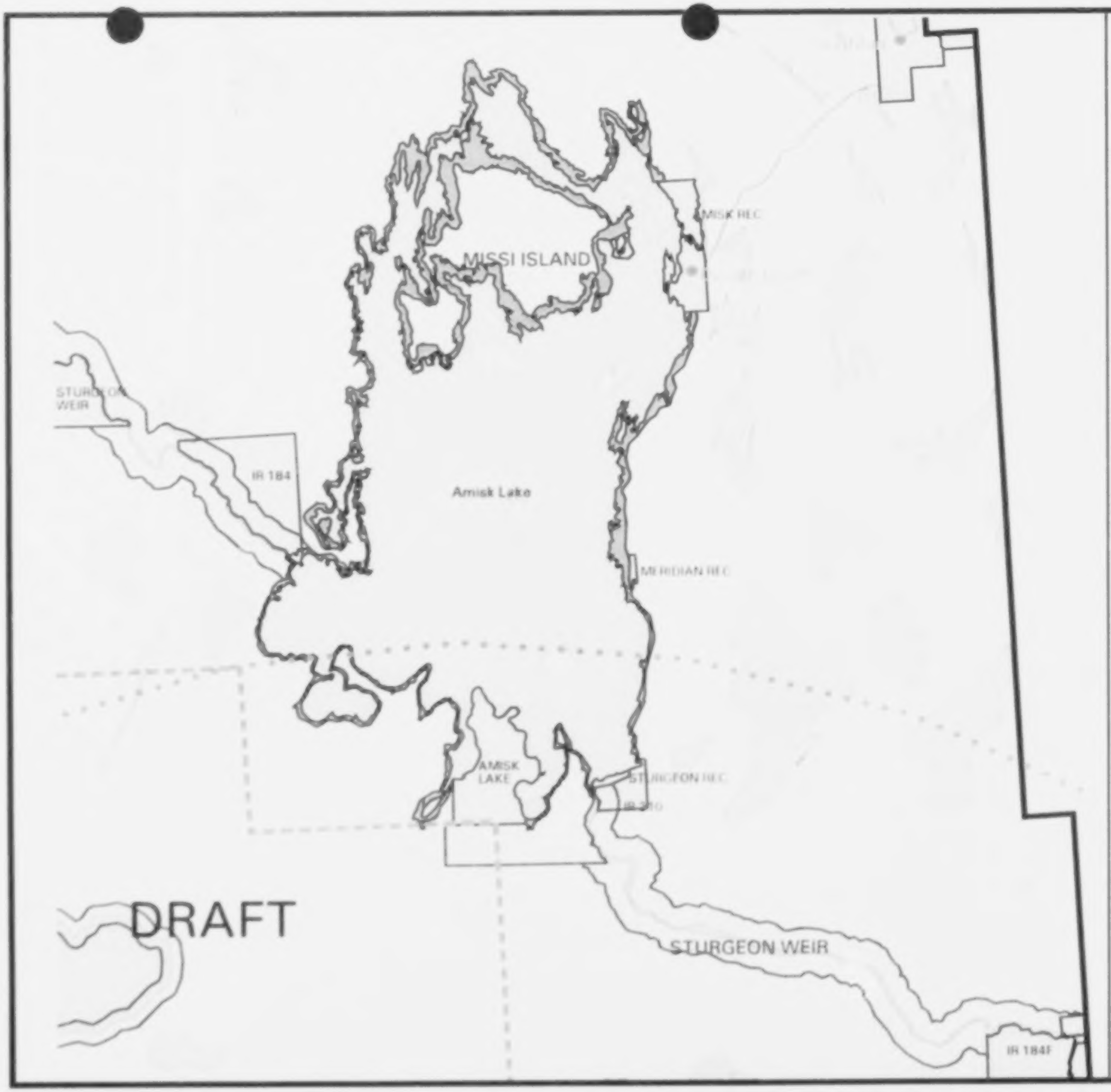

SENSITIVE AREA
AMISK LAKE &
MISSI ISLAND
LEGEND
EXCLUSIONS
PROTECTED AREAS
SENSITIVE CORRIDOR
SENSITIVE AREAS (LINE OF SIGHT)
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLANTS, MUSHROOMS
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA
CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE
Scale 1:250,000
Creighton
MISSI REC.
Denare Beach
MISSI ISLAND
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184
Amisk Lake
MERIDIAN REC.
AMISK LAKE
STURGEON REC.
IR 210
DRAFT
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 01 Apr 03

Figure 2-2


MISSI ISLAND
AMISK REC
Amisk Lake
IR 184
STURGEON WEIR
MERIDIAN REC
AMISK LAKE
STURGEON REC
IR 210
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
DRAFT

SENSITIVE AREA AMISK LAKE & MISSI ISLAND

LEGEND

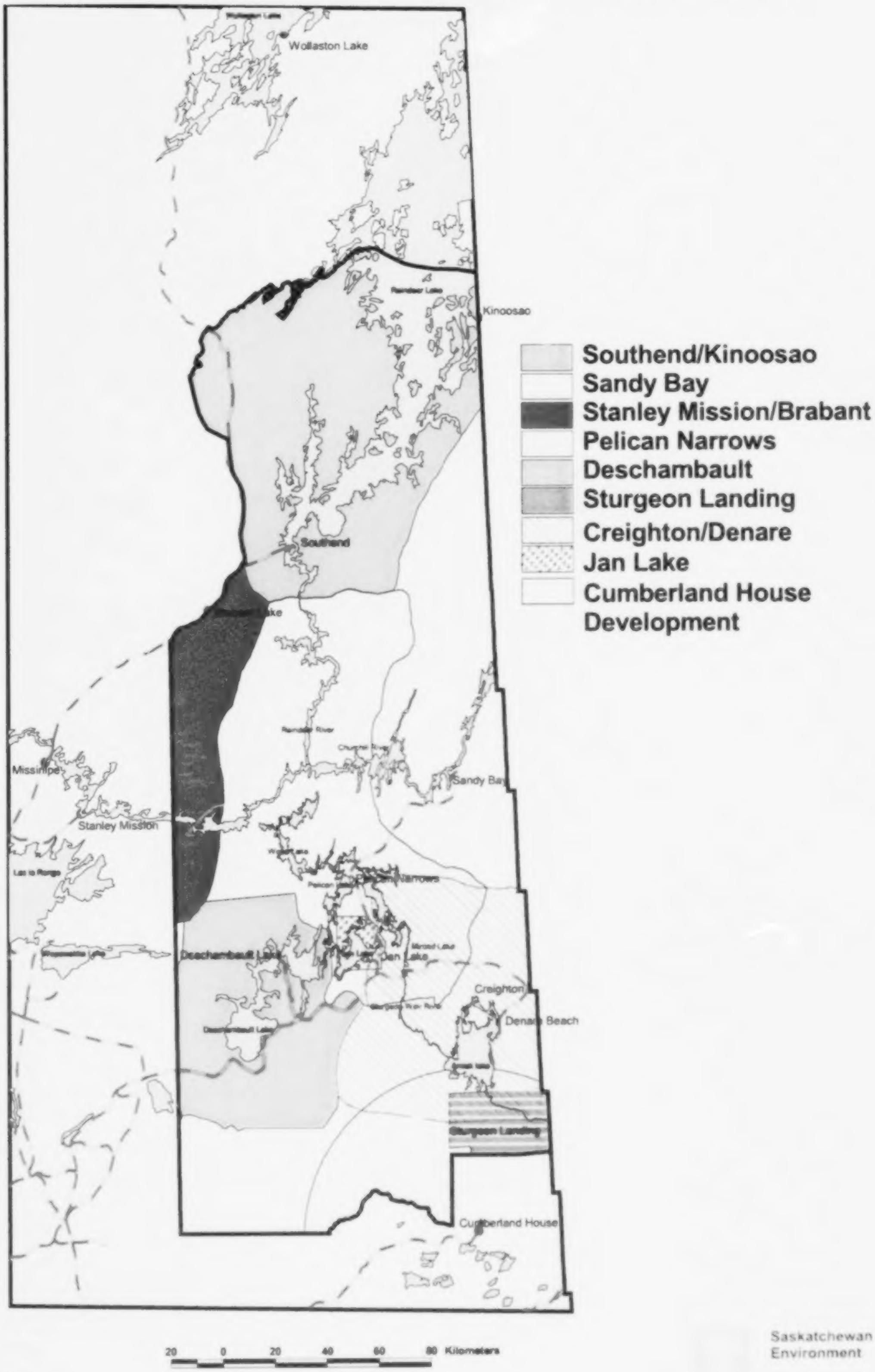
- EXCLUSIONS
- PROTECTED AREAS
- SENSITIVE CORRIDOR
- SENSITIVE AREAS (LINE OF SIGHT)
- SPECIAL MANAGEMENT PLANTS, MUSHROOMS
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA
- CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
- CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Scale 1:250,000

Figure 2-2

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 01 Apr 03

Community Areas of Influence in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
Reindeer Lake
Kinoosao
Southend
Missinipe
Reindeer River
Churchill River
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Lac la Ronge
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
Southend/Kinoosao
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission/Brabant
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault
Sturgeon Landing
Creighton/Denare
Jan Lake
Cumberland House Development
20
0
20
40
60
80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan Environment

Figure 2-3

Community Areas of Influence in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

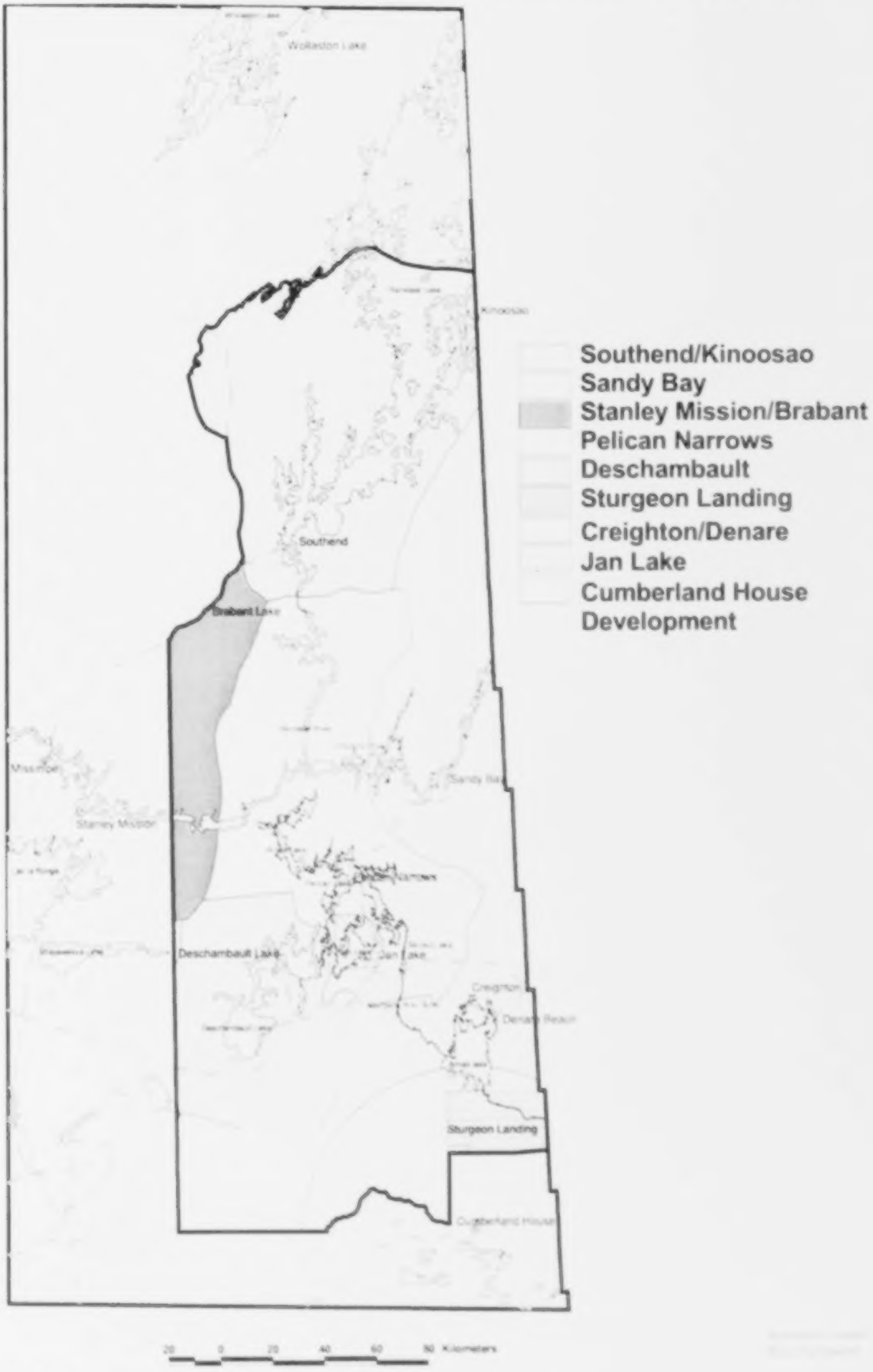

Wollaston Lake
Kinoosao
Southend/Kinoosao
Sandy Bay
▨ Stanley Mission/Brabant
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault
Sturgeon Landing
Creighton/Denare
Jan Lake
Cumberland House
Development
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Figure 2-3

CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

3.1 Environmental Protection

Environment is one of the key components that determines the health of the human population. The physical environment considers both the natural and built subsets of our environment.

The natural environment includes water, air, land, plants, animals and other living organisms. The modified environment includes aspects of the environment that are created or substantially changed by humans. The impact of the physical environment on human health can be direct and physical, as is the case in environmental contaminants, or indirect and non-physical, when the state of the environment affects the way of life within communities, and their social and psychological well-being.

Lifestyle impacts on the condition of the environment, and so affects human health. Economic growth is required if human health and potential are to be maximized.

Maintaining a healthy physical environment requires collaboration with all sectors of society. True and total health is only possible where resources are available to meet human needs and where the living and working environment is protected from life-threatening and health-threatening pollutants, pathogens, and physical hazards.

Public consultation clearly identified a need for economic development to provide increased economic opportunity for present and future generations of people in the Amisk-Atik plan area.

Developments must protect the environment and be based on sustainable resource allocation and integrated resource management. Preserving the traditional lifestyles of northern people is a priority.

Recommended Strategy
The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board be involved and have the opportunity to review, comment, and make recommendations on proposed developments in the Amisk-Atik plan area, including projects within and outside the established environmental assessment process (Environmental Impact Assessment).
Establish a data base of sites in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area where contamination or concern regarding the health of the environment has been identified.
All Acts, Regulations, rules and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Qualified personnel establish and maintain a list of known contaminated sites in the plan area. Clean up of the contaminated sites to be prioritized. SE to enforce clean up by the responsible party. Contaminated sites to be cleaned up within one year of their occurrence.	immediate / or within one year of their occurrence	Party responsible for the pollution or SE
SE to consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible projects planned for the planning area.	ongoing	SE Proponent

3.1.1 Air Quality

The natural environment includes water, air, and land. Air quality is a key component for the health of the human population. The environment requires protection from life-threatening pollutants, pathogens, and physical hazards.

Recommended Strategy
All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced. Approved development projects to maintain ecosystem biodiversity and protect the environment.

3.1.2 Water Quality

The management and protection of water resources in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area must maintain water quality, continue to provide an environment which supports sustainable fish and wildlife populations, and ensure the continuance and preservation of people's traditional lifestyles. Changes in land use could affect natural patterns of runoff, rate of recharge of aquifers, natural basin storage, and the quality of surface and ground water supplies. Resource managers, individuals, and affected communities identified preservation of water quality and supply as a key ingredient and priority for sustainable economic growth and development for the planning area.

3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection

Recommended Strategy
Develop a public education process and implement a communication strategy identifying ground water as an important component of the ecosystem that requires protection.
The protection of water resources requires that all development projects conform to existing Acts and Regulations. Projects must be monitored. Regulations must be enforced.
Investigate the feasibility to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan to ensure and protect water quality for all resource users.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Add regulations and legal requirements to protect water quality to the Saskatchewan Anglers' Guide section identified as Protect Yourself - Protect Your Environment.	2002/2003 angling season	SE
Large reservoirs such as Reindeer Lake be monitored by conducting annual water quality assessments. Corrective measures to be taken to ensure environmental health and water quality are maintained.	2002/2003	SE Sask Water Corp
Develop a priority list of water bodies to be monitored, based on their proximity to planned and active projects. Consideration of the level of use by local communities and affected resource users is required.	2002/2003	SE Sask Water Corp

3.1.2.2 Stream Management

Recommended Strategy
Protection and special management of sensitive watersheds must be incorporated into the 20 year forest management plan and harvest plans for the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and selected Industrial Forest Company Partnership. Five spawning rivers at Deschambault Lake are designated as sensitive watersheds. They are Oskikebuk, Puskwakau, Ballantyne, Fisher Bay-Fisher Creek, and Hidden Bay. Other fish spawning closures have been identified through consultation with affected resource users, approved by Peter Ballantyne Band Council Resolution and will be included as sensitive watersheds once established in legislation. Applicable sensitive watersheds, river corridors, and areas designated to protect fish that are seasonally concentrated for spawning that require protection and special management are itemized in Table 2.3.
If future hydro electric dam development occurs, it should only be approved subject to the condition that all timber is salvaged in advance from the flood zone required for the operation of the hydro electric facility.

Standards for construction, restoration and reclamation of stream crossings must be strictly enforced. Enforcement will include integrated planning, inspection during construction, and ongoing monitoring to ensure protection of the environment.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
During the review of major development proposals that include stream crossings, SE will provide the general public an opportunity to provide comments.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects, monitored and enforced.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.1.3 Solid Waste Management

Recommended Strategy
Waste disposal sites be located and limited to the Resource Management Area as per the zoning established by the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board. Requests for exceptions regarding the zoning restriction require review of a comprehensive development plan and consultation with affected resource users .
Comprehensive development plans submitted to SE requesting approval to develop new waste disposal sites must include engineering requirements, environmental study and assessment.
Approved waste disposal sites located on Crown Lands be sold to the Municipality. Liability will be the responsibility of the proponent. The proponent will be monitored by SE and held accountable to ensure the environment is protected.
Applications from communities outside the Amisk-Atik plan area wishing to locate waste disposal sites in the planning area not be considered, unless there are no other options available.
Operating standards and guidelines for waste disposal sites be strictly enforced. Ongoing monitoring is required.

Recommended Action	Suggested Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Information and education on requirements to develop and maintain waste disposal sites will be available at SE offices.	2002/2003	SE

3.1.4 Water and Sewage Infrastructure and Services

The Amisk-Atik plan area has many residents who are responsible for and provide their own water and sewer infrastructure and service. Communities supply sewer and water services for many people. These facilities must be maintained so that the ecosystem is protected. Environmental protection is provided by the enforcement of existing Government Acts and Regulations.

Recommended Strategy
Recommend that a permanent full-time Public Health Officer be assigned to the Amisk-Atik plan area (e.g. Creighton). The Public Health Officer will continually monitor water, sewer, and health-related issues.

3.1.5 Vegetation Control

Vegetation control on access and power line right of ways is a necessity for reliable electrical service and the maintenance of highways and access routes. Control can be accomplished by the application of chemicals. The Regional Advisory Board recognizes manual cutting as a control method that is effective and often required to protect values at risk.

Recommended Strategy
A comprehensive plan for the application of chemical herbicide to control vegetation on right of ways must be submitted to Saskatchewan Environment for approval. Public consultation with local communities is required. Public notice for scheduled herbicide application is required. Chemical application to be strictly monitored; possible environmental impacts to be assessed.
Non-chemical vegetation control methods to be utilized to ensure protection of water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitats. The Regional Advisory Board identified that manual controls are preferred to chemical controls. Other options such as encouraging a preferred woody species or alteration of areas that must regularly be treated should be considered by SE. Whenever possible local people to be given preference for employment opportunities related to these vegetation control programs.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Comprehensive development plans for the application of herbicide must ensure that water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitat areas are identified and protected.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management

Biological diversity or biodiversity includes all species of plants, animals, micro-organisms and the ecosystems and ecological processes of which they are parts. Biodiversity is the spectacular variety of life on earth and the essential interdependence among all living things. It is a term to represent natures variety, including both the number and frequency of ecosystems, species and genes (reference: Conserving Saskatchewan's Natural Environment: Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan, August 2000).

Forest operations based on sustainable and integrated resource management attempt to manage conditions that occur after natural events such as forest fires. Operating guidelines for activities such as timber harvest and mineral exploration supplement resource allocation limits that are sustainable and minimize impact to forest ecosystems. Pre-harvest planning, silviculture treatments, maintaining seral stages, age class distribution and species diversity all attempt to maintain the biodiversity of our forest ecosystems.

Conserving forest diversity and the integrity of forest and aquatic ecosystems is required if traditional resource use and quality of life for people in the planning area is to be maintained.

Recommended Strategy
20 year Forest Management Plans must strive to conserve the biological and ecological diversity of the Amisk-Atik planning area. Provision for ecosystem management to preserve genetics, landscape patterns, species variety, nutrient cycling, riparian zones, water resources, and aquatic ecosystem diversity must be developed and initiated for all forest operations.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE review of proposed harvest operation plans for the Amisk-Atik planning area will give due consideration to maintaining the biological and ecological diversity of forest ecosystems.	immediate/ongoing	SE

As it is completed, The Saskatchewan Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan August 2000, will be incorporated and applied to management of the Amisk-Atik plan area.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.3 Heritage Resource Management

A commitment to preserve heritage resources in the Amisk-Atik planning area must be recognized prior to approval of development projects. Heritage resource impact assessment is required by Section 63 of the Heritage Property Act. All land use and development plans that may impact heritage sites require a screening process to determine the appropriate terms and conditions for approval. The process may include carrying out heritage resource impact assessment or conservation measures as deemed appropriate.

Recommended Strategy
Cultural and spiritual values are immeasurably significant to First Nations communities. Medicinal plant and wild food gathering areas and historic ceremonial and religious sites, are examples of cultural and spiritual values to be respected and preserved.

3.4 Traditional Land Use

Traditional land use is vital to many residents of the Amisk-Atik land use planning area. The value of activities such as trapping, subsistence hunting and fishing, and gathering of forest products for medicinal purposes, must be measured not only as a means of financial income, but as a lifestyle for many people. This way of life is an integral part of First Nations' culture and history, and must be preserved to allow future generations to continue the practices of their ancestors. Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized by this plan and will not be compromised.

To maintain this way of life, impacts resulting from new developments must be kept to a minimum. Consultation with resource users is essential to the success of continuing traditional land use while still allowing for new economic opportunities. (See Section 4.1.7 - Traditional Use and Occupation of the Land of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan Background Document.)

3.4.1 Traditional Resource Use Cabins

Communication will be important to reduce potential conflicts between traditional resource users and forestry companies as a result of increased harvesting activities in the planning area. Buffer zones around leases will need to be negotiated with individual trappers and fur blocks to minimize impacts while maintaining wind firm boundaries and aesthetics. Figure 3-1 represents existing traditional resource use leases in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area.

Recommended Strategy
Traditional resource use cabin numbers and locations permitted in the individual fur trapping blocks to be co-ordinated between SE and the local trapping association.

Traditional Resource Use Leases in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

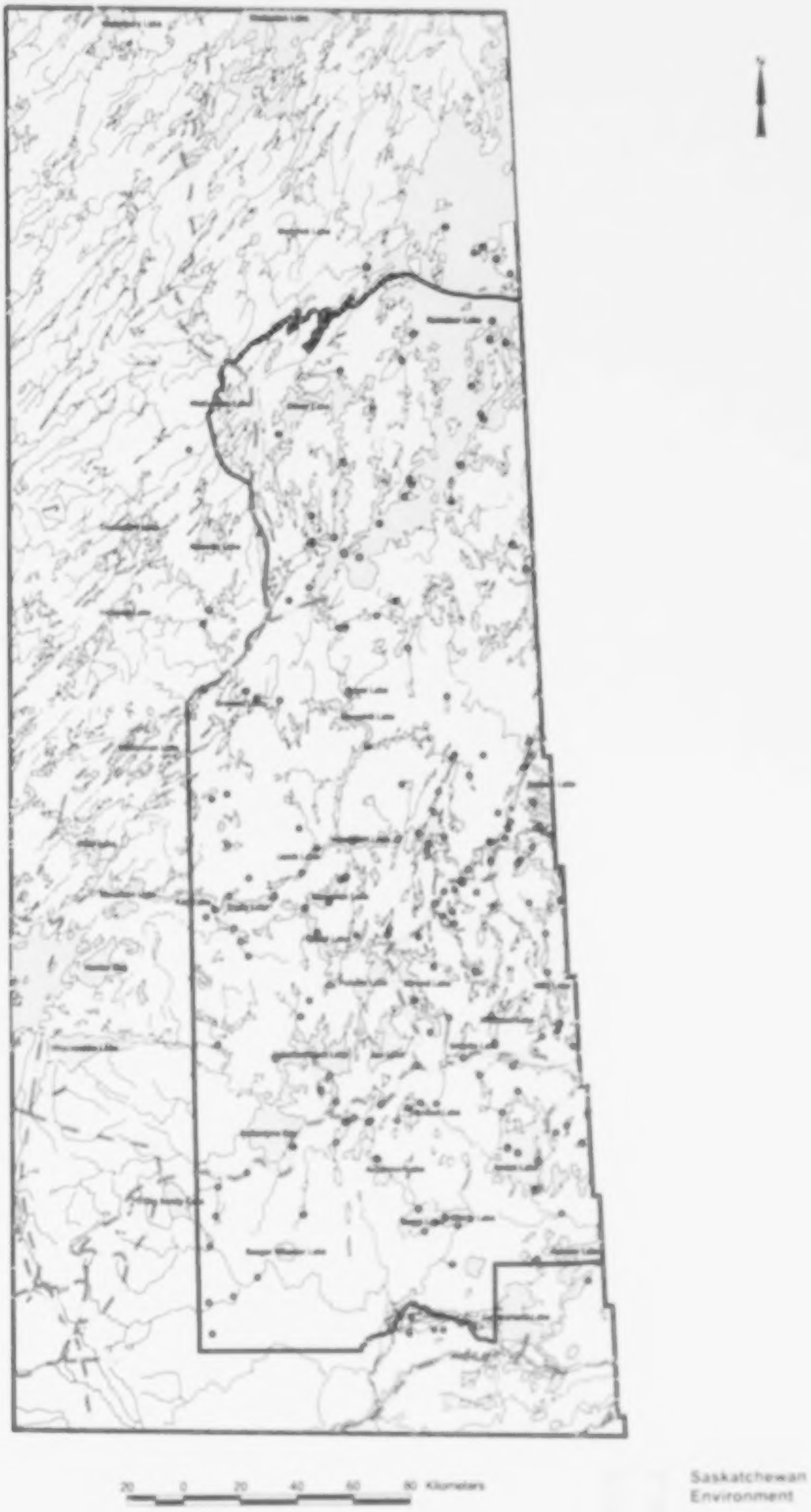

20
0
20
40
60
80 Kilometers
Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 3-1

3.5 Fisheries Management

The health and sustainability of the fishery is crucial to the economy and economic viability of the Amisk-Atik region. Consultation with traditional and commercial users, outfitters, the tourism industry, and local communities provided the Regional Advisory Board with important issues for consideration. Other priority issues identified include the lack of current fish stock data, fish resource allocations, protection, harvest utilization, increased opportunity for economic development, recognition of local knowledge, and funding for improved fisheries management.

The Regional Advisory Board strongly emphasized the importance of increased research and fishery studies to ensure sustainable management. Fisheries work in the Amisk-Atik area has been minimal to date. Completing a minimum of two lake management plans per year is recommended. If possible the RAB feel this number should be increased so that required Lake management plans will be completed within a reasonable time frame.

Recommended Strategy
Recommend increased funding be allocated to enhancement and conservation projects where economic stability and sustainability of the fisheries resource are at risk, or where impacts from development have not been mitigated. Implementation would be subject to annual government budgeting approval procedures.
Develop a program, implement and establish a fish population data base for fish habitable waters in the Amisk-Atik planning area. The program focus should provide a framework for ongoing data collection, capability for analysis, data that is storable and accessible, and be available to all resource users.
Lake management plans for lakes and lake systems should develop critical fish habitat inventories, productivity assessment, enhancement requirements, fish harvest data, and water quality monitoring. Local knowledge acquired through public consultation processes should be recognized.
Involve all user groups in analyzing data and developing management recommendations directed at ensuring the sustainability of the fishery.
The entire process of allocating and maintaining quotas be investigated where the sustainable and desired economic stability of the fishery are at risk.
Government to investigate other fisheries management options and implement those options that provide quality fishing experiences for all fishers.
Investigate the feasibility to develop and implement a stocking program to enhance sturgeon populations in the Churchill and Sturgeon-weir Rivers. Assessment of the ongoing sturgeon stocking program involving Cumberland House and SE should be given consideration.
Initiate a program to conduct creel surveys involving Government and resource users, to provide information for improved fisheries management.
Major developments that involve stream crossings must allow the local public and affected resource users opportunity to review and provide comments to SE.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Finalize and establish fish spawn closures initiated through the Amisk-Atik land use plan process. Consultation with the public, affected resource users, and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation to be verified. Locations of existing and proposed fish spawn closures can be obtained from local SE offices.	2002/2003 angling season ongoing consultation may initiate additional closures	SE
Creel surveys should be conducted during the angling season. Locations and times to conduct survey be based on monitoring critical impacts to the fishery.	Initiate as required in 2002/2003 angling season	SE
A priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans should be established. A minimum of two lake management plans to be initiated / completed annually.	•priorities established 2002/ 2003 •management plans initiated 2003	SE
SE to continue to evaluate the process of allocating and maintaining quotas, and involve affected resource users in the ongoing assessment of fisheries allocations.	ongoing	SE
Investigate assistance available from University researchers to provide survey design, computer analysis, dynamic modeling for fish populations, and co-ordination of data use, for a system study of the major lakes in the planning area.	2002 / 2003	SE
Educate the public regarding the legal purchase of fish from commercial fishermen. The commercial fisher must provide the purchaser a receipt with information required.	ongoing	SE
Establish and maintain co-management Boards for established regions in the Amisk-Atik plan area (may be beneficial to utilize Local Community Advisory Boards developed by the land use planning process).	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.6 Wildlife Management

It is understood that sound wildlife management is crucial to maintaining ecosystem health. Wildlife provides a source of income for many people in the area, and potential impacts to the resource must be kept to a minimum. Trappers, traditional resource users, businesses such as outfitters, and the tourism industry all benefit from robust wildlife populations. Sightings of animals native to the area, such as bears, moose, and caribou, are an attraction to potential tourists. Another activity drawing people to the area is the popular sport of recreational hunting. Wildlife populations must be managed in a way that results in their sustainability. (See Table 2.1 *Common Operating Guidelines for Sensitive Management Areas (Zones.*)

Recommended Strategy
Impacts to traditional land and resource use should be minimized through ongoing consultation with trappers and First Nations representatives of the area in question.
Protect wildlife and wildlife habitat from disruption during the spring and summer birthing / hatching and rearing / fledgling periods.
Protect opportunities for sport hunting, wildlife viewing and nature appreciation by following Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommended guidelines. Integrated resource management should maintain ecosystem biodiversity and ensure sustainable resource use and allocation.
Protect riparian lake, river and stream margins from development. Amisk-Atik IFLUP recommended guidelines and strategies for sensitive areas and watershed corridors may limit development and allowed activity. Specific operating guidelines for forestry activities in riparian zones must be followed.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party
Restrict access to known moose and caribou calving islands in lakes and muskegs	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
Establish buffer zones free of development, around; known active raptor nest locations, with particular attention to bald eagles and osprey; around nesting colonies of colonial waterfowl species such as great blue heron, gull and tern species, double crested cormorants, pelicans, and known wolf and coyote den locations.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

Identify endangered species that occur in the planning area and follow guidelines established in recovery plans for those species.	immediate/ongoing	SE
Follow guidelines established by SE for protecting rare and endangered species of plants and animals.	immediate/ongoing	SE
Follow guidelines for road and trail construction that cause the least disturbance to wildlife.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.6.1 Road Corridor Game Preserves

Road corridor game preserves prohibit all people from hunting within 400 meters of a particular road. Subsequently, establishing road corridors on new roads will help to minimize impacts to wildlife populations.

Recommended Strategy
All new permanent roads have a road corridor game preserve applied, subject to community consultation, band council agreement, wildlife information, biologists' (SE) review.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Development plans for new roads (including game corridor restrictions) should be submitted to the RAB at the same time they are submitted to government for regulatory approvals.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.6.2 Woodland Caribou

Woodland Caribou are highly sensitive to disturbance of their habitat, therefore, it is important to provide protection for the animals and their environment. The caribou population in the Amisk-Atik area was recognized as vulnerable by the Government of Saskatchewan in 1993. In May 2000, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designated the boreal population of woodland caribou an endangered species, category threatened. Saskatchewan Environment has accepted this designation and is currently developing a recovery plan. Action must be taken during development to prevent further depletion of caribou populations. An outline of permissible activities in the Woodland Caribou Special Management Area can be found in Table 2.3.

3.7 Forestry

Timber harvesting is a major resource use in the Amisk-Atik area. While timber harvesting can be sustainable, natural regeneration does not always occur. Areas that do not regenerate reduce the sustainable timber supply and change the forest structure and composition. Other resource uses and values can be affected.

Besides timber, forest land provides other products such as mushrooms, berries, decorative floral products, and traditional medicines. Commercial interest in these products has occurred recently, indicating potential for growth and diversification in these areas.

Fire, insects, and diseases are natural and necessary elements of forest ecosystems. However, with increased use, the forest must be protected to a certain extent from some of these natural occurrences.

Some past timber harvesting practices have had negative impacts on the forest ecosystem— altered plant communities and wildlife habitats, soil compaction, disruption of nutrient cycling processes, effects on water systems, and harmful effects of improved human access to remote areas.

Clear-cut logging has received great public criticism and concern; however, some forest types (e.g. jack pine) regenerate poorly without a large opening in the tree canopy.

Methods other than clear-cutting cause their own problems, such as increasing the number of roads required to harvest the same landscape. This results in increased forest fragmentation.

Although some wildlife species may benefit from clear-cut harvest, others do not. Harvesting methods must be adapted to local conditions to protect critical habitats and maintain ecosystem biodiversity. A continuous adjustment of methods is necessary to conserve the range of species, habitats, and ecosystems across the landscape. Ecologically sound forest practices that imitate, to the extent possible, natural disturbances such as forest fires, are increasingly being recognized as essential to good forest management.

Not all forest uses are compatible with current harvesting practices. Clear- cut harvesting impacts the aesthetics of an area, negatively affecting other resource uses, such as tourism. Trappers are affected when harvesting close to their traplines alters developed access trails to known wildlife habitat. Applying principles of integrated resource management, sustainable resource use, and maintaining biodiversity, can reduce environmental impacts and provide economic benefits that are worthwhile.

Recommended Strategy
Should it be necessary to designate personal use areas for fuel wood collection / fire wood, consultation with the partnership formed by Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and the selected Industrial Forest Company, SE, and affected communities will identify preferred harvest sites.
There is recognition of the value of special forest products in the Amisk-Atik area. The Forest Company will make every effort to consult with users of special forest products when designing forest harvest plans. Sustainable resource use and allocation of forest resources for new ventures to be encouraged.
The Forest Company will work with cabin owners, outfitters, and other lease holders to mutually set harvest boundaries around leases that will ensure a wind firm boundary and maintain the visual integrity of the lease. Minimum buffer of 90 meters is required.
Additional SE personnel are required to support proper management related to the forest industry expansion in the Amisk-Atik area. Additional staffing to develop forest inventories, provide monitoring and enforcement, and support fish and wildlife management is required. Recommend the staffing of two additional forest technicians and a wildlife biologist.
Require completion of a new long-term forest land inventory in the planning area. The inventory would provide information beyond the requirements for operational forestry.
The allocation process for independent operators should be an open process, based on criteria that recognize traditional volumes, utilization standards, local contractors, performance appraisal, employment opportunities, and the ability to work with the Forest Company. Recommend annual five-year performance appraisals be required to ensure utilization standards are met, and that commitments agreed upon are met. Appropriate performance indicators should be put in place to ensure adherence to the spirit of intent of the proposals. Recommend this allocation process be initiated within the first year of The Forest Company TSL.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Prepare an access management plan with a well-defined public involvement process. All resource users to be consulted.	Within 1st year of TSL ongoing	The Forest Company
Develop a plan for reducing and eliminating reforestation backlog. The plan should include actions to completely access backlog, and options for renewing areas, with priority given to areas with highest productivity potential.	Activity to begin immediately Target for completion of plan should be five years from the time the Land Use Plan is approved. Not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) forest stands are to be planted or treated within 10 years of Land Use Plan approval.	SE (consultation with the Forest Company)

Continue to work towards improving utilization standards (e.g. improved top utilization and deciduous/ hardwood utilization, etc.) while recognizing other forest values (e.g. brush for small animals). Examples of strategies would be reviewing forest policy, identifying new markets, etc.	ongoing	The Forest Company, SE, independent forest operators
Ensure that adequate data - forest inventory (forest inventory will be per agreement with FMA / SE), fish and wildlife populations, etc. - is collected to promote good management and maintenance of healthy forest resource populations.	immediate/ongoing	The Forest Company, SE
In addition to providing the TLE information to SE, ensure the Forest Company Partnership has current TLE maps and information so their planning is done with accurate information.		PBCN, The Forest Company
Initiate TSL process for assigning volumes to independent forestry operators in the Amisk-Atik area.	immediate	SE

3.7.1 Forest Fire Protection

Expanded use of forests and resources have increased the need for fire suppression and detection for values-at-risk such as human life, wild land fire-fighter safety, communities, timber and economically important resources.

Fire is a natural and necessary element of forest ecosystems. Wildfires contribute to the biodiversity and health of the forest by providing habitats and forage areas for wildlife (animals, insects, plants, bacteria, etc.). Burned forests produce natural ecosystems that are different than ecosystems produced by clear-cut timber harvesting. These burned forests are necessary for the survival of some plants and animals.

For economic reasons, not every fire can be fought with the same intensity. To sustain the overall ecological integrity, some areas must be left to burn. Therefore, a system of fire priority areas is needed, based on ecosystem health and resource and community values. An inventory of forest values and their relative importance will allow integration of fire management strategies in forest resource management. It is important that forest products be valued in relation to their significance to the residents and the overall well-being of the area.

Fire management chiefly assists in land or resource management objectives by three methods:

1. Suppression of wildfire - concentrating protection on values consistent with values-at-risk model and verified through land use plans;
2. Relaxed suppression - allowing for flexibility where called for; and
3. Prescribed Fire - using planned fire as a cost-effective resource management tool.

Efficient fire management delivery must be closely linked with values-at-risk and land use planning initiatives, in order to ensure that suppression and other fire management efforts are consistent with the resource management strategies of these plans. Participation is key to minimizing negative losses, while at the same time, maximizing positive outcomes. Land use objectives must be included in the values-at-risk model to better define where the suppression of fire management efforts should be emphasized.

Prescribed fire is a safe and efficient method that has been used for forest renewal, fire hazard reduction, improvement of wildlife habitat, sanitization of insect and disease infestations, vegetation management in provincial parks, improvement of range conditions, and for maintenance of forest ecosystems. A "prescription" identifies the safe burning conditions required to achieve the desired results for a given location. An ignition and containment plan are exercised with suppression resources in place to implement the burn. Follow-up studies are conducted to measure the success of achieving the resource management objectives.

Limited fire action is the practice of restricting or not applying fire suppression to the fullest extent possible when suppression resources are available to do so. Currently this occurs only when significant forest values are not threatened, usually in the modified protection zone. If land management objectives are defined on the landscape, limited suppression can provide for ecological or resource management benefits. This is not a "let burn" policy, although a decision may be made to allow a fire to burn a larger area than it might have if suppressed. The distinction is that it will be made only when predetermined conditions are met. The key is linking these practices with values-at-risk and the land and resource management objectives.

Basic priorities used to determine where to fight forest fires are as follows: human life, communities, structures and property, infrastructure and economically important resources.

Recommended Strategy
Strong emphasis to be placed on education and fire prevention, with a strong focus on informing resource users on how to prevent forest fires.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Create a fire priorities map for the Amisk-Atik area with ongoing consultation with local people and communities.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.7.2 Insect and Disease Management

The most significant forest insects of concern in the Amisk-Atik area are the Forest Tent Caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*), which feeds mainly on trembling aspen, and the spruce budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) which feeds primarily on white spruce. In 2000, SE began a spray program to control spruce budworm in the Amisk-Atik area. Consultation with local communities and the Regional Advisory Board indicated that the people in the plan area are concerned about the potential harm severe outbreaks of these insects will have on the health of the forest. People in the Amisk-Atik area are in favour of control programs to manage these forest insect infestations. Consultation and public information sessions will continue to be vital to the success of the programs.

Dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium* spp.) is one of the more common forest diseases in the Amisk-Atik area. The most conspicuous symptom of dwarf mistletoe infection is the production of witches' brooms (bushy, compacted masses of branches and twigs), particularly on jack pine trees. The damage includes reduced growth, poor wood quality, and poor seed production. Heavily infected young trees will not reach merchantable size, which will impact commercial forest harvesting. The unsightly appearance of infected trees due to brooming is also a serious concern in communities and parks, in addition to increasing the fire hazard. Management of this disease is important in the Amisk-Atik area to ensure a viable forest industry and to minimize fire hazards in areas where little harvesting occurs.

Recommended Strategy
Prior to any infestation control programs, in particular to any spray program, local communities to be consulted and informed.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will consult the RAB and affected communities to determine the most effective means of informing residents of infestation control programs (in particular spraying).	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.8 Resource Development

Throughout the planning process, residents of the Amisk-Atik planning area spoke firmly of their interests to be kept informed and involved in future resource development of the land they call home. Government and industry also confirmed that involvement and advice from people who are impacted by development is a principle of the planning process and the plan.

Recommended Strategy
Wise use of the land base depends upon all users understanding their impacts on the land and on others. This plan requires administrators, residents and developers to be aware of and provide advice regarding proposed developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Encourage industries to plan together in the development of resource lands. This is an ongoing objective with potential benefits to all. The process should involve industry, Government and affected communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Saskatchewan Environment, as the administrator of the land base, will ensure that resource development proposals are reviewed by all interests that may be affected by the development.	immediate /ongoing	SE
All those representing an interest will confirm in writing to SE the types of developments they would expect to review.	immediate/ongoing	Department of Highways and Transportation, Sask Water, Sask Industry and Resources, Saskatchewan Mining Association, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, communities, others

Many different types of development and associated land dispositions occur in the Amisk-Atik land use planning area. These include, but are not restricted to:

- Forestry
- Mining
- Mineral Exploration
- Sand and Gravel Quarrying
- Commercial and Industrial Development
- Recreational Activities
- Residential Development (sub-division)
- Cabin Development

- Cultural Camps and Historic Site Development
- Archaeological Sites
- Outfitting Operations
- Wild Rice Operations
- Fishing Operations
- Traditional Resource Use
- Road Development
- Eco-tourism Development
- Agriculture Development
- Research Activity
- Trapping

Operating guidelines for these activities can be found in Chapter 2 of this document, entitled, *Land Use Management Areas (Zones).* Additional information regarding the various types of land and resource uses is located in Chapter 3 of the Background Document, *Value and Use of the Land and Resources of the Amisk-Atik Area.*

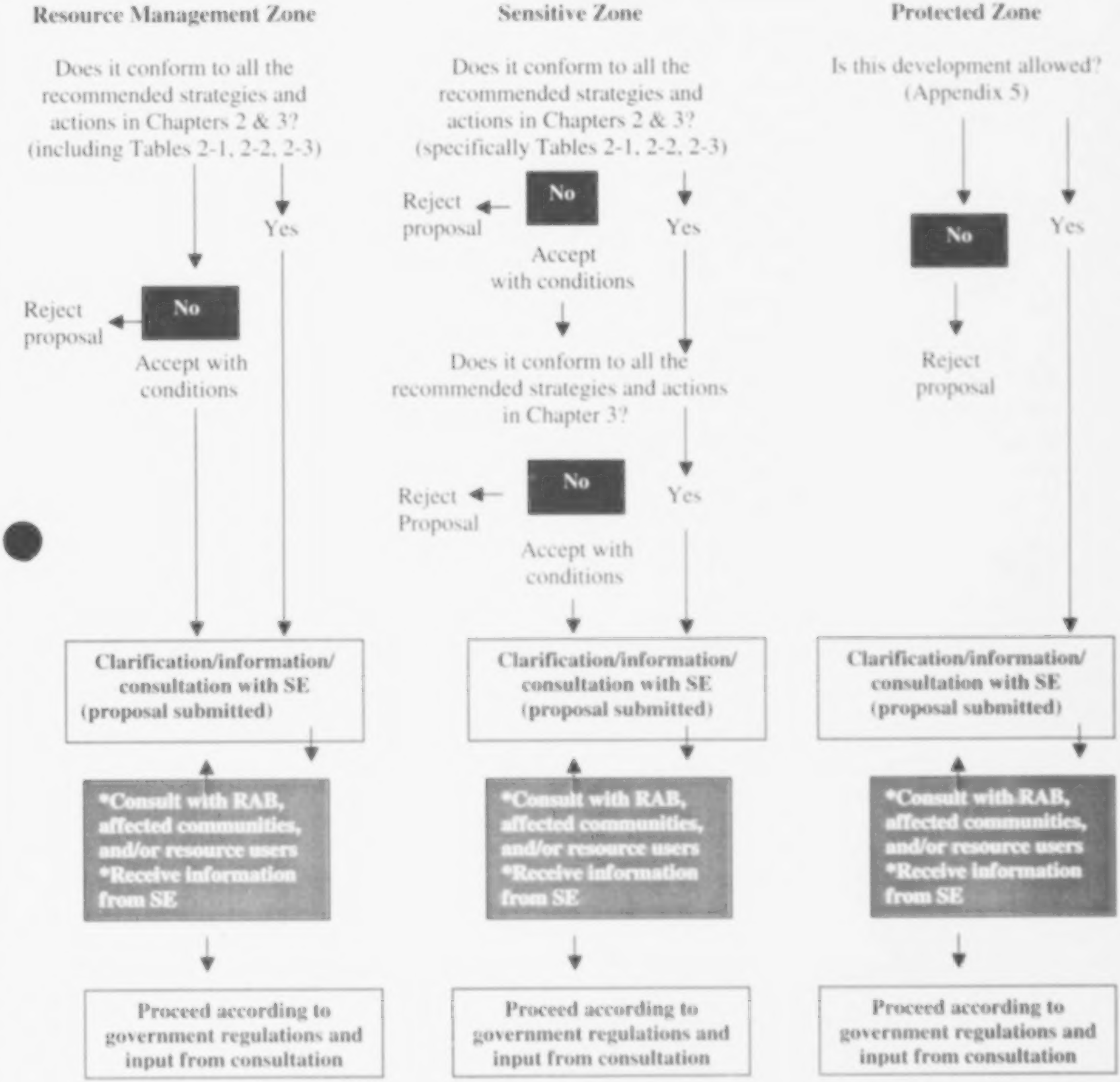
The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan zoning framework established three management area (zone) categories: Resource Management Area (Zone), Sensitive Management Areas (Zones), and Protected Areas (Zones). These management areas provide a framework for applying different management techniques and strategies. Varying degrees of protection and opportunity for the development of the planning area's provincial crown land and resources are provided by the management areas.

Proposals for new development or improvements to existing development must consider many values and possible impacts of the proposed development when submitting a proposal to SE for review and approval. The requested development location in the planning area may have zoning restrictions. The availability of a sustainable resource allocation, impacts to other resource users, requirements to consult other resource users, and conforming to applicable Government Acts and Regulations are examples of conditions to be met and included within the development proposal. See figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals.

Additional clarification or information requests should be directed to Saskatchewan Environment Regional Offices. Offices familiar with the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Planning Area are located in Creighton, La Ronge, Pelican Narrows, and Southend.

Figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals

Where in the planning area is the development located? (see Figure 2-1)


Resource Management Zone
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapters 2 & 3? (including Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3)
No
Reject proposal
Accept with conditions
Yes
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
*Consult with RAB, affected communities, and/or resource users
*Receive information from SE
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation
Sensitive Zone
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapters 2 & 3? (specifically Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3)
No
Reject proposal
Accept with conditions
Yes
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapter 3?
No
Reject Proposal
Accept with conditions
Yes
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
*Consult with RAB, affected communities, and/or resource users
*Receive information from SE
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation
Protected Zone
Is this development allowed? (Appendix 5)
No
Reject proposal
Yes
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
*Consult with RAB, affected communities, and/or resource users
*Receive information from SE
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation

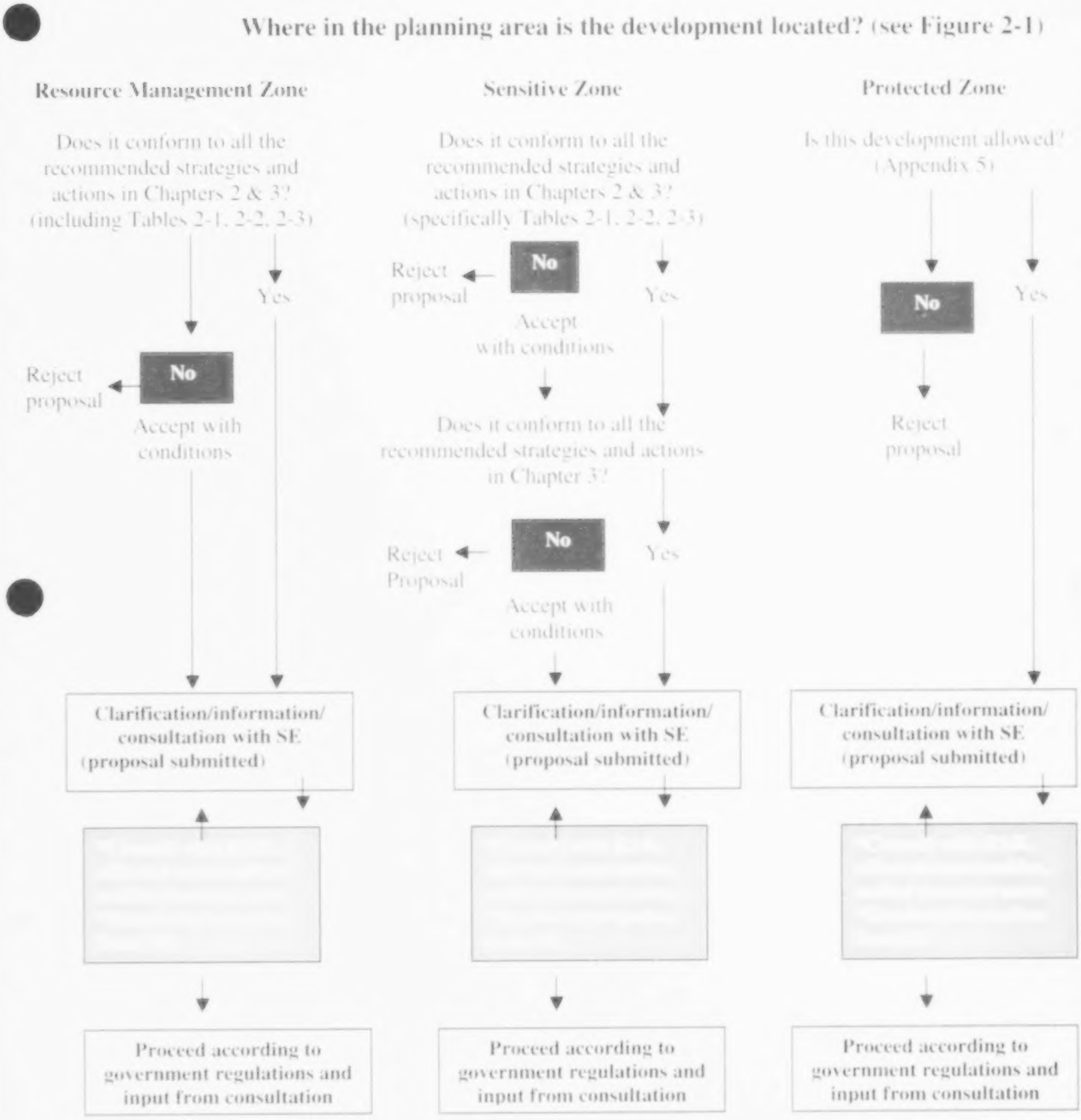
Note: 1. all figure and table references in this decision tree are to the Amisk-Atik plan

2. blue boxes, negotiation may be required; proposal may be rejected or accepted with conditions.

3. yellow boxes indicate where SERM becomes officially involved.

4. green boxes correspond to points where final consultations will occur to meet all requirements.

Figure 3-2 Guidelines for Submission of Development Proposals


Where in the planning area is the development located? (see Figure 2-1)
Resource Management Zone
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapters 2 & 3? (including Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3)
Yes
No
Reject proposal
Accept with conditions
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation
Sensitive Zone
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapters 2 & 3? (specifically Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3)
No
Reject proposal
Yes
Accept with conditions
Does it conform to all the recommended strategies and actions in Chapter 3?
No
Reject Proposal
Yes
Accept with conditions
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation
Protected Zone
Is this development allowed? (Appendix 5)
No
Yes
Reject proposal
Clarification/information/ consultation with SE (proposal submitted)
Proceed according to government regulations and input from consultation

Note: 1. all figure and table references in this decision tree are to the Amisk-Atik plan
2. blue boxes, negotiation may be required; proposal may be rejected or accepted with conditions.
3. yellow boxes indicate where SERM becomes officially involved.
4. green boxes correspond to points where final consultations will occur to meet all requirements.

3.8.1 Mineral Exploration and Mine Development

With the various mining companies operating in northeastern Saskatchewan, mineral exploration and mine development are common activities in the area. Mining is the primary industry in the Amisk-Atik area, and provides numerous economic benefits to the region. Regional Advisory Board discussions centred around exploring and developing in protected and sensitive areas, ensuring impacts are kept to a minimum.

Protection and sustainability of the environment are two main factors to consider before a mining project begins. Minimal impacts to the environment occur during the exploration process. A mine development proposal requires a comprehensive environmental review, usually as a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as determined by SE, which assesses all environmental and societal impacts of the proposed development. Extensive public consultation by the mining company is a component of the EIA. The EIA must be approved by SE and the Saskatchewan Department of Northern Affairs prior to issuance of a surface lease that is necessary for mining to take place (See Chapter 2 for operating guidelines for mining exploration and development in sensitive areas; also see, Appendix 6, *The Mineral Industry in Saskatchewan.*)

3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development

Concerns regarding the policy and process to obtain sand and gravel resource allocations in the Amisk-Atik area were relayed to the Regional Advisory Board. Other issues identified include the requirement for integrated resource management planning, preservation of aesthetics, as well as monitoring and reclamation of existing sand and gravel pits.

Recommended Strategy
Saskatchewan Environment to contact the Department of Highways and Transportation before issuing proponents an exploration permit for sand and gravel. Highways and Transportation will provide SE their level of interest for first right of refusal decisions based on their management plan and requirements for sand and gravel resources in the immediate area. SE to provide the proponent relevant information to assist the proponent in assessing their willingness to proceed to the exploration stage. Highways and Transportation first right of refusal remains in effect.
The Department of Highways and Transportation, where practicable, may cost-share the development and utilization of sand and gravel resources with other potential users. Private contractors, forest companies, and the mining industry are examples of possible integrated resource management partnerships.
Access to operating areas should maintain the visual integrity of the area. New developments require a 200 meter buffer from major access routes. Landscaping may be a viable alternative affecting the required buffer width. SE consideration of special requests may alter the buffer width required.
SE to enforce clear guidelines for the reclamation of sand and gravel pits to ensure proper management of developed sites.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The Department of Highways and Transportation to provide their management plan for sand and gravel resources in the planning area to Saskatchewan Environment.	ongoing	Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation
Monitor and annually document disposition holders (lease and/or permit) who have access to sand and gravel resources in the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE
All existing pits (sand, gravel, quarrying) within the proposed 200 meter sensitive area of the Sturgeon-weir River are to be decommissioned and the sites reclaimed as soon as possible.	immediate	SE, Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation
The gravel pit located at the Sturgeon-weir River, six kilometers down Matheson Road be reclaimed and decommissioned (specific to the 200 meter sensitive area /zone) as soon as possible; the Matheson Road be left accessible for the six kilometers up to the pit and the road closed from that point onward.	immediate	SE

3.8.3 Infrastructure Development

The main elements of public infrastructure required for these developments are highways and other public rights-of-way, electricity, and natural gas. Most citizens of Saskatchewan have long had adequate and well-maintained services in each of these sectors.

Improvements to infrastructure to support resource opportunities that will supply jobs and investment to the planning area are a concern of many northern people.

The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board would like a commitment from the Province that it will do its part to assist in the economic development potential of this area.

Recommended Strategy
Encourage industries to work together in development of infrastructure and sharing of resources. This is an ongoing objective with potential benefits to all. The process should involve industry, Government and affected communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE will consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible infrastructure projects planned for the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.8.3.1 Roads

The highway infrastructure in the Amisk-Atik area significantly impacts land use. Highways have functional classifications, which are influenced by average daily traffic, type or purpose of trip, length of trip, level and type of population center served. Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation have standards for upgrading specific roads. These standards consider the highway classification, function and traffic volumes.

In 2000 approximately 25 kilometers of Highway 106 from the Limestone access westerly was resurfaced. In addition the two bridges at Sturgeon-weir River were reconstructed. The main artery of the area, the Hanson Lake Road (Highway #106) is only rated for secondary load limits, with considerably lesser capacity in summer. The ability of mining and forestry companies to move raw materials to processing plants and finished products to market may be influenced by the quality of access available. This includes tourists who are a major segment of expected economic development.

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) has expressed interest in developing improved access to their reserves (e.g. Amisk Lake, Sandy Narrows) in the future. The Regional Advisory board acknowledges that this opportunity should be recognized and given due consideration.

Recommended Strategy
The Sturgeon-weir River bridge at Leaf Rapids was recently upgraded to allow for the passage of fully loaded "B-train" tractor trailer units on a year-round basis. All other bridges in the area should continue to be monitored and upgraded where necessary. Enough span and clearance over the river to ensure the safe passage of boats and canoes should be provided on recognized navigable rivers.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Study of the road network and road access needs in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning area by the Northeast Transportation Committee is ongoing. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board request the minutes of the meetings be forwarded to them care of: Land Use Planner, Amisk-Atik IFLUP, Sustainable Land Management, SE, Box 3003 Central Avenue, Prince Albert, SK.	immediate/ongoing	Saskatchewan Dept. Of Highways and Transportation.
Work together to develop a plan to control nuisance beavers and minimize the impact on roads	immediate/ongoing	The Forest Company, SE, Department of Highways and Transportation, Mining Association, Trappers Association, and Wildlife Association

3.8.3.2 Electrical Services

In northern Saskatchewan the reliability of the electrical system is affected by the length of the high power voltage line that supplies the communities. Due to the length of the lines and changing loads, voltage levels can vary greatly. Customers in the area are serviced from district offices. Service is often delayed due to the distances involved.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SaskPower development plans to meet the existing and projected future need of electrical services for industry, expanding towns and businesses in the Amisk-Atik planning area, should be provided to the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board and local communities upon their request.	ongoing	SaskPower

3.8.3.3 Other Infrastructure Issues

Infrastructure items of less immediate importance include rail line access and modern all-weather air service. The closest such airports are at Baker's Narrows, Manitoba, (30 km east of Flin Flon) and at La Ronge. Air service is becoming increasingly important in medical evacuation, the tourism industry and economic development. Currently there is limited accessibility by air to Southend and Kinoosao.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government to investigate where infrastructure development may be needed (e.g. regional air service facilities, specifically the airport at Pelican Narrows, and the feasibility of this becoming a regional fire-fighting tanker base / areas suitable for future recreational subdivision development).	Initial discussion 2002/2003 ongoing	SE

3.8.4 Recreational Cabin Development

For the past 20 years, the recreational leasing policy has not allowed the issuing of recreational leases in Zone A. Zone A is an area of the province that covers much of Saskatchewan's commercial forest from Manitoba to Alberta. Many residents from Creighton and Denare Beach would like the opportunity to apply for new recreational leases. These residents developed a proposal which would allow for new leases within Fur Conservation Area N-66 of the planning area. The new recreation leases to be developed fall within three categories; 1) Recreation leases within developed sub-divisions, 2) remote recreation leases adjacent to lake shorelines, and 3) remote wilderness recreation leases that may not be adjacent to lake shorelines. The proposal is specific to Creighton and Denare Beach, as they are the only communities in the planning area that have voiced an interest in obtaining remote recreational cabin leases. Individuals from outside the planning area have also expressed limited interest in obtaining recreational leases in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area.

Essentially two viewpoints were raised by the residents within the Creighton and Denare Beach area regarding this proposed policy. The residents who are interested in remote recreational cabin leases are seeking the peace and tranquility that the cabin would provide. Some residents have expressed concerns about the impacts these new leases would have on the environment and the fishery. A record of the discussions surrounding development of a proposed policy is found in Appendix 8.

The Creighton and Denare Beach Local Advisory Board were unable to come to consensus on the strategy. The Regional Advisory Board felt a solution may be possible and challenged Saskatchewan Environment to develop a strategy that considers all viewpoints, minimizes impacts to resources and resource users, yet provides the opportunity for recreational lease development (see Appendix 7: Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines).

Recommended Strategy
The Zone A freeze on recreational lease development, in effect for Fur Conservation Area N-66, be lifted to allow for planned and orderly recreation lease development.
The proposed policy to allow recreational cabin lease development in the N-66 trapping block (see Appendix 7) be submitted for SE consideration and approval. The policy and associated guidelines will direct planned and orderly development of new recreational leases in Fur Conservation Area N-66.
SE to investigate the feasibility of expanding the number of recreation leases available at existing recreation sub-divisions at Jan Lake and Tyrrell Lake. SE will further investigate and inventory possible locations for development of recreation sub-divisions within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Area.
SE to ensure adequate consultation with affected resource users minimizes impacts and considers all values prior to the selection of specific site locations for remote recreation lease development. The Regional Land Manager will ensure applicants meet lease guideline requirements and approve the application for lease issuance.
SE to develop a priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans. A minimum of two lake management plans to be completed / initiated annually (See fisheries management - section 3.5). Establishment of the priority list should give consideration of the requirement to assess and establish sustainable fish allocation levels for lakes within Fur Conservation Area N-66. Lakes where SE assesses the fishery fully allocated may not be available for recreation lease development.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE to ensure the proponent consults with all affected disposition holders (trappers, cabin owners, FMA proponent, ect.) and First Nations PBCN community (Denare Beach) prior to approving the recreation lease. SE to mediate a resolution to any concerns.	immediate/ongoing	SE
SE to inventory possible areas for the development of recreational sub-divisions and recreational lease sites that may or may not be adjacent to lakes. Existing access only, no new access allowed. Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. Proponent may request a specific site in the approved development area, subject to SE review and approval.	immediate/ongoing.	SE

SE to ensure proponents that submit a request to develop a recreation sub-division or remote recreation lease are informed regarding process and requirements to proceed.	immediate/ongoing.	SE

3.8.5 Wild Rice Development

The Regional Advisory Board recognizes that the wild rice industry is important to the economy of the Amisk-Atik planning area. The number of producers has grown. Approximately 66 producers in the eastern region produced sales totaling $553,878.00 in 1999. The eastern region produced 17% of total provincial sales in 1999.

In 1998 Saskatchewan produced 76% of Canada's wild rice crop. In 1999 Saskatchewan production increased to 80% of Canada's total crop. Saskatchewan's 10-year average for Canadian production is 63%.

Wild rice provides other benefits in addition to rice, such as fish habitat. The Regional Advisory Board discussions identified the need for scientific studies that would assess possible impacts. Research studies to identify possible short-term and long-term impacts and benefits specific to the growing of wild rice in the planning area should be initiated. The requirement for consultation with resource users affected or impacted by new introductions of wild rice was also identified. (See Chapter 2 for operating guidelines for wild rice activities.)

Recommended Strategy
Trappers to be included in the consultation requirement section of the wild rice lease policy. It should be mandatory that trappers be consulted prior to introduction of wild rice in their fur blocks.
Wild rice policy and procedures, particular to the cancellation of licences or unpaid licences, are to be actively implemented and enforced by SE.
Wild rice introductions should be approached as one would any other introduction of a plant species. The decision to introduce wild rice into lakes should reflect the potential benefits to local economies, but consider potential impacts to lake ecosystems and other resource users through consultation prior to wild rice introductions.
A detailed SE study is needed to assess the potential biological and social impacts that the introduction of wild rice might have on aquatic ecosystems. The study should include the possible displacement of sport and commercial fisheries, recreational use of lakes, water quality, possible detrimental impacts to fish habitat, wildlife and changes in fish communities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Investigate the requirement to initiate detailed studies to assess possible impacts to lake ecosystems resultant from growing wild rice. Research should encompass and consider the growing of wild rice over short-term and long-term time frames.	2002/2003	SE SAF

3.8.6 Agriculture Development

Agricultural development and activity is limited in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Agriculture developments are encouraged as long as they do not negatively impact the environment or conflict with established management areas in the planning area.

Recommended guidelines suggest no introduction of exotic species and the Regional Advisory Board acknowledges that this is an important issue. Through the review of comprehensive development plans and public consultation, the RAB is confident economic development in agriculture will be feasible. (See Section 3.5.8 - Land Dispositions in Background Document.)

Recommended Strategy
Agriculture leases should be allowed subject to review of a comprehensive development plan and consultation with affected resource users.
Agriculture leases must be monitored to ensure conditions of the lease are met, the land is used for its intended purpose, and development does not negatively impact the environment.

3.8.7 Hydro Electric Development

Mr. Llewellyn C. Matthews, Senior Environmental Advisor for SaskPower, attended Regional board meetings and made presentations to the Regional Advisory Board regarding two areas for special consideration. Special consideration was requested for the existing Reindeer Lake flood zone and for potential hydro development areas on the Churchill and Reindeer Rivers. The areas identified for special consideration were reviewed by the Regional Advisory Board.

Area 1: Reindeer Lake Flood Zone

SaskPower requested the Regional Advisory Board to not allow development of new structures below elevation 338.0 meters above sea level (ASL) on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake. This area is the flood zone required for the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The SaskPower request would exclude developments from the area that may be subject to flood damage by the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The request makes explicit existing rights held by SaskPower. Any new development within the flood zone, such as docks, must be at the builders own risk, and neither the Government or SaskPower have any liability associated with damage due to fluctuating water levels. Developments required by resource users for activities involving the shoreline of Reindeer Lake can still occur adjacent to the flood zone. Granting the request would provide direction for a construction zone and reduce conflict and future requests for liability. This request for special consideration does not conflict with the zoning framework established by the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Recommended Strategy
New developments (e.g.,that require issuance of a lease) below elevation 338.0 meters ASL on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake will not be approved by SE. This area is defined as the flood zone required for the operation of the existing Whitesand Dam. The flood zone is identified as land below elevation 338.0 meters ASL on the shoreline of Reindeer Lake.

Area 2: Potential Hydro Development Areas on the Churchill and Reindeer Rivers.

SaskPower requested the Regional Advisory Board consider the possible impacts of approved developments to maintaining the option for future hydro development within an area identified by SaskPower. The area is identified as the full supply line (FSL) which delineates the maximum land area that could be flooded from a number of hydro development options in an area of high potential along the Churchill River. This FSL area was identified by SaskPower as an area with significant economic potential to produce hydro electricity for the Province of Saskatchewan. SaskPower requested that the Regional Advisory Board consider restricting developments in the FSL area to reduce possible compensation requirements and protect the provincial interest for hydro development if ever required and approved in the area. SaskPower supplied maps of the FSL area (see figure 3-3). It should be recognized that the boundaries have been developed by interpretation of existing maps and therefore are approximate. The FSL area identified by SaskPower falls within a sensitive management area established by the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board.

SaskPower requested that the following developments not be permitted in the designated FSL area;

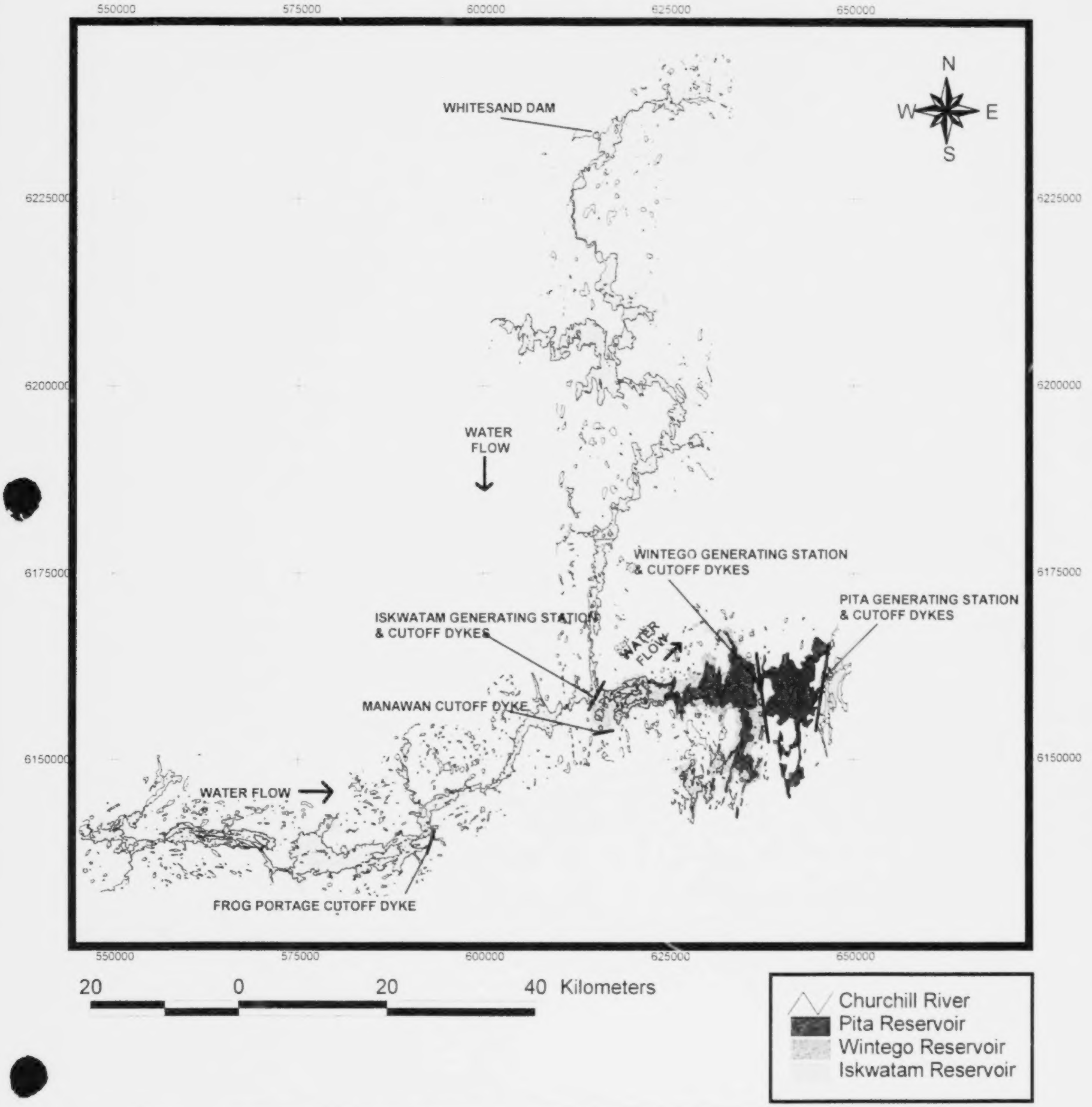
1. Permanent road bridges over the Churchill and Reindeer rivers. Southend Reindeer excluded;
2. Mining and mining infrastructure;
3. Industrial development such as pulp mills and saw mills;
4. Residential sub-divisions;
5. Permanent tourism and recreation infrastructure with a total replacement value greater than $250,000;
6. Other permanent infrastructure, commercial or private, with a replacement value greater than $250,000;
7. Crown land within the designated area not be sold.

SaskPower stated they did not want to unreasonably restrict economic development in the area and; therefore do not object to other land use activities not listed above. It was also mentioned that if hydro development did proceed in the future, any permitted development in existence at the time would have to be compensated by the proponent.

The Regional Advisory Board felt the SaskPower request could impede economic development. The area requested for special consideration was identified as being within a sensitive management area proposed by the zoning framework for the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. Sensitive areas were established to provide protection to special areas deemed sensitive to disturbance, and yet provide development opportunities for northern people. The Regional Advisory Board concluded through consultation that hydro electric development that would require development of new dams on the Churchill River was not presently desired by people in the planning area. It should be noted that Peter Ballantyne Cree nation has investigated hydro development as an economic development opportunity. It is also noted possible future projects would require an environmental assessment and public consultation process, and that possible future projects could provide significant local benefits. SaskPower acknowledged that any future hydro development would require local support before it could proceed. It was also noted there are no immediate hydro development plans by SaskPower. SaskPower's primary responsibility related to their request is to protect an area that has high potential for hydro development to meet the possible long term provincial electricity needs. The Regional Advisory Board felt the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan recommended zoning framework should not be altered to protect the potential for hydro electric development that may never be developed. The Regional Advisory Board recognizes that future hydro electric projects may provide economic benefits for the people in the planning area. Future proposals should be given due consideration.

Recommended Strategy
At this time development of new hydro-electric dams on the Churchill River are not supported by the majority of people in the planning area. Development of additional electricity from improvements to existing infrastructure at Whitesand Dam and/or Island Falls or new projects that would not flood additional land should be investigated as important economic opportunities for the people in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Protecting the potential for hydro development by restricting other types of development in the SaskPower requested full supply line area may limit economic development opportunity for people in the planning area. The Regional Advisory Board proposes the Churchill River corridor be a sensitive management area and subject to defined operating guidelines approved within the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.
Future consideration of development plans may include new hydro electric dam development proposals. Proposals should be reviewed on their own merit. All proposals for major development in the planning area must recognize and include a public consultation and involvement process. Public opinion should receive fair and deliberate consideration. Saskatchewan Environment to ensure existing Government Acts and Regulations for environmental assessment are applied and enforced.
The Churchill, Reindeer, Sturgeon-weir and other major rivers in the Amisk-Atik planning area are highly valued and utilized. Provincial boundaries, land use planning areas, multiple Government jurisdictions all impact management of these important watersheds. Ongoing consultation between Governments and all affected resource users should supplement Integrated Forest Land Use Plans to develop a comprehensive development strategy that would consider protection and resource development requirements involving these major river systems.

CHURCHILL RIVER POSSIBLE FURTURE HYDRO DEVELOPMENT AREA


550000
575000
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6225000
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E
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WHITESAND DAM
WATER FLOW
WINTEGO GENERATING STATION & CUTOFF DYKES
PITA GENERATING STATION & CUTOFF DYKES
ISKWATAM GENERATING STATION & CUTOFF DYKES
WATER FLOW
MANAWAN CUTOFF DYKE
WATER FLOW
FROG PORTAGE CUTOFF DYKE
20 0 20 40 Kilometers
Churchill River
Pita Reservoir
Wintego Reservoir
Iskwatam Reservoir

Take line contours and reservoir full supply levels interpolated from 1:50000 NTS map sheet data. Be aware of the accuracy limitations that this implies.

Figure 3-3

3.9 Recreation

The Amisk-Atik plan area provides unlimited opportunity for many forms of outdoor recreation. Recreational hunting and fishing, sightseeing, canoeing, boating, snowmobiling, camping and picnicking are a few of the activities that occur in the planning area. Existing Government Acts and regulations control and direct sustainable resource use, and protection of the environment for these activities.

Government and the tourism industry supply services and infrastructure enhancing recreational opportunity. The pursuit of recreational activities provides economic benefits to the tourism industry and the overall economy of the planning area. The Regional Advisory Board developed recommendations for two activities, camping and snowmobiling.

3.9.1 Camping

Recommended Strategy
Electrified campsites should be established at the existing recreation sites located at Sawmill Bay, Denare Beach, Sturgeon-weir, Jan Lake, and Limestone Point. Upgraded water supply systems should also be established for these sites.
Wherever possible, walking trails should be established and maintained at recreation sites (e.g. Limestone crevasses, Limestone Point, and Meridian Creek).
SE to upgrade and maintain existing recreation sites, boat launches, and docks in the Amisk-Atik planning area.
Leaf Rapids is a popular, heavily utilized recreation site. The capability for additional sites exists. The number of sites should be expanded, based on optimizing the space that is available.
Establish trailer sewage dump sites at all Government campgrounds and recreation sites.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Initiate detailed studies, and prepare and implement a Recreation Site Upgrade and Development Strategy. Strategy should set priorities for sites to be improved or upgraded. A minimum of one site per year should be upgraded.	2002/2003	SE
A map of currently utilized back country campsites in the planning area to be developed to provide the public with information and locations for wilderness camping opportunities.	2002/2003	SE
SE to monitor recreational use and activity along the Sturgeon-weir River to determine recreation needs (designating campsites, etc.), or if there is a need to limit the number of people in the area.	ongoing observation / consultation with resource users	SE

3.9.2 Snowmobiling

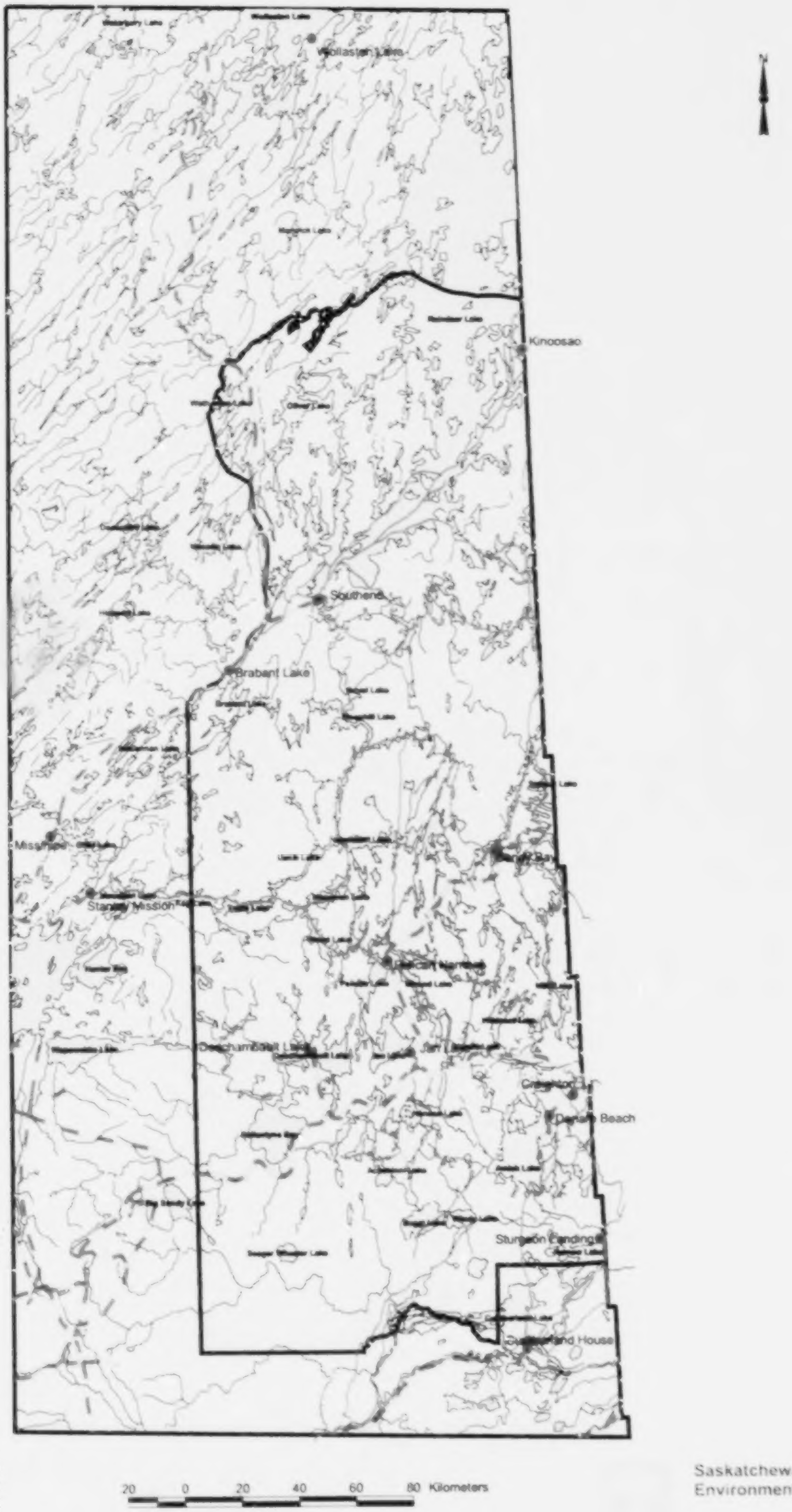
The Regional Advisory Board recognize that snowmobiling is a popular and increasing outdoor recreational activity that provides economic benefits to businesses in the planning area. Impacts to other resource users, promoting safety through education, and the requirement for consultation were issues the RAB considered.

Recommended Strategy
Any future development of snowmobile trails must include a comprehensive development plan, consultation with all affected resource users, and give due consideration to environmental concerns that ensure protection of the environment. Potential impacts to be considered on a site-specific basis.
Snowmobile clubs must be consulted by mining and forest companies where their activities will impact recognized trail systems. Consultation would include formal invitations to forest harvest plan review meetings and providing schedules for planned hauling activity by mining and forest companies. See Figure 3-4, *Snowmobile Trails in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.*
Snowmobile clubs to inform and provide signs to trappers which indicate trap line locations, and encourage the public to use designated trails and groomed trail systems to reduce impacts to trapping operations.

SE to investigate development of a signed snowmobile trail to connect the communities of Southend, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, Jan Lake and Deschambault Lake to established southern snowmobile trail systems. Signing of the traditional travel routes would create opportunities for tourism. Consultation with affected resource users and communities is required.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Reduce impacts from snowmobiling activity to resource users by providing information and educating the public. Promote and ensure safety through consultation processes.	present/ongoing	Mining Industry Forest Industry Snowmobile Clubs Trapping Association SE

Snowmobile Trails in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


N
Wollaston Lake
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 3-4

3.10 Tourism

The tourism industry in the Amisk-Atik planning area is an important component of the area's economy. The industry provides economic benefits to Government, local businesses, and individuals. The industry is a major employer with the potential for expansion and new development. It is important not only to maintain, but to increase the economic benefits generated by the tourism industry. The industry is based on consumptive and non-consumptive use of the natural resources of the planning area. Consumptive resource use is based on sustainable resource allocation, integrated resource management, and protection of the environment.

The Regional Advisory Board identified increased promotion, reassessment of current resource allocations, and financial support by Government as key areas requiring action.

Recommended Strategy
The Saskatchewan Government should extensively promote northern Saskatchewan as a tourist destination; northern Saskatchewan is naturally beautiful, unique, and should be promoted as such for its excellent fishing, hunting, eco-tourism, recreational opportunities and services.
Aboriginal people need to play a greater role in the tourism industry. Whenever possible Government should encourage aboriginal participation and ownership by providing mechanisms including financial support, making resource allocations available, and providing grants for promotion of northern tourist businesses.
Establish tourist information booths at strategic locations in the planning area, to provide information related to available services for recreation, and promote tourism for the planning area.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The current resource allocation system, in particular fish resource allocation for lakes, needs to be reassessed to allow opportunities for new tourism operations; first opportunity and priority should be given to Aboriginal people (attention should be directed to the unused portion currently allocated to day-use lakes and allocations available to the tourism industry).	immediate	SE
Saskatchewan Environment to encourage agencies responsible for tourism to extensively promote tourism in Northeast Saskatchewan, particularly recreation facilities and services available in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Promotional material to be made available to the public at strategic locations in the planning area.	2002/2003	SE,
Complete the development of operating guidelines, allowed and not allowed activities for Eco-tourism operations.	2002/2003	SE

3.11 Economic Development

It is essential to Amisk-Atik residents that economic development opportunities benefit those living within the area. At present, there are limited employment prospects available in northeastern Saskatchewan. With the new mining exploration and forestry developments in the Amisk-Atik area, it is felt that people native to the region should be given priority for employment whenever possible. It is also important that revenue generated from industrial activity be redistributed locally.

Many Aboriginal people depend on the forest for traditional uses such as hunting, trapping, fishing, berry-picking, and gathering medicinal plants. The forest and its resources also have potential as the basis for economic development that could benefit both Aboriginal and northern communities where unemployment levels are high. While Aboriginal communities want to develop new business ventures and increase job opportunities, they also want to protect traditional lifestyles.

Recommended Strategy
Enhanced, efficient, and effective use of royalties and penalties generated in Amisk-Atik should be used to encourage social and economic development in the planning area.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government must outline, document, and communicate the Saskatchewan government's forest economic development vision/strategy for the North, and communities must clearly express their vision for the future to Government.	immediate/ongoing	SE
New developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area be encouraged to hire local residents for at least 50% of the new hires.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.12 Enforcement

The Amisk-Atik land use planning area covers approximately 4.4 million hectares of forest land. Much of the area is remote. Providing services to the public, monitoring and enforcement of allowed and not allowed activities on the land and water are difficult. The economy of the planning area is dependent on sustainable resource use and protection of the environment. Enforcement of Government Acts and Regulations helps to ensure resource use is sustainable (See Appendix 9 - Provincial and Federal Legislation and Appendix 10 - Provincial and Federal Related Policies and Guidelines). The implications of major economic development projects in forestry, mining and exploration, will increase requirements for monitoring, enforcement, and consultation with affected resource users.

The Regional Advisory Board recommends that additional staffing in the planning area be hired to support the increased demands for enforcement and resource management.

Recommended Strategy
Two additional Conservation Officer positions be created for each of the communities of Creighton, Pelican Narrows, Deschambault, Sandy Bay, Southend Reindeer, and Cumberland House. Staffing the new positions to be based on employment equity so that a minimum of fifty percent are filled by local and/or aboriginal people. Government effort is recommended to provide northern and/or aboriginal people opportunity to access education and training to become Conservation Officers.
SE offices be established in Sandy Bay and Deschambault Lake. The offices to be permanently staffed, hiring based on employment equity so that fifty percent are local and/or aboriginal people.
A seasonal conservation officer and support staff be provided and maintained at the Jan Lake SE facilities.
Numerous leases of crown land occur in the planning area. Recommend that SE review and enforce the terms and conditions of crown land leases, commercial leases in particular. Enforcement of conditions on the leases should be strictly enforced.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
SE to investigate the feasibility of improving enforcement and public service capabilities in northern communities in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Establishing new SE offices and/or hiring additional staff should be considered. At a minimum, regularly scheduling Conservation Officer days in communities is recommended.	immediate/ongoing	SE

Review the terms and conditions applied to commercial leases and the conversion of lease policy to ensure flexibility, protection and enforcement capability for the management of crown lands.	Immediate/ongoing	SE

3.13 Education

Sustainable resource management is essential to ensuring a healthy forest environment for future generations. Educating young people in the importance of resource management is critical to preserving the numerous resources in the Amisk-Atik area. Forestry should be a major component in local school curriculums so that children understand the significance of forestry development to the region.

The desire to train for and work in careers that lend themselves to the natural surroundings of the area is apparent. There is a recognized need to facilitate this by having resource management education readily available in local training facilities. In addition, on-the-job training is a valuable way to gain work experience. Public education through workshops and tours will be significant to ensuring a level of comfort and understanding about forestry development in the Amisk-Atik area.

Aboriginal traditional knowledge is valuable information to share and include in the education system. Providing an opportunity for elder knowledge to be incorporated into education programs (e.g. cultural camps) will help to encourage an appreciation for the forest and its many resources.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities (e.g., public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).	immediate/ongoing	SE The Forest Company
Incorporate resource management (e.g. Focus on Forests, Project Wet, Project Wild) and forestry education into the school curriculum in Saskatchewan, particularly in the Amisk-Atik planning area.	immediate/ongoing	Department of Education PBCN SE

3.14 Compensation

Compensation was an issue that was discussed frequently during the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. When a person perceives that his or her business or lifestyle has been impacted due to a development or use of the resources around them, there is an expectation of compensation, however, it was recognized that compensation must be based on a legal requirement. It must be recognized that we all share the resources of this land, and it is important to understand the significance of establishing a level of trust and respect among different resource users.

Most conflicts can be avoided by consulting with other users before proceeding with a development project. Every effort should be made to minimize impacts on other users, and for the parties involved to come to agreement. Where there is a legal requirement, compensation will be negotiated between the parties involved. Compensation may take the form of training, jobs, replacement of equipment or damaged property, or money.

The Regional Advisory board strongly expressed that the Minister ensure all issues are resolved prior to approving development projects.

Recommended Strategy
Recognition that all the resource users in the Amisk-Atik area are sharing the resource, and governments to encourage proponents and local people to work together with government to minimize impacts on each other. Legal claims for compensation to impacted resource users due to development should be negotiated between involved parties.
Government to ensure that where major economic development projects have the potential to impact resource users, individuals, or communities in the Amisk-Atik, that the impacts are both identified and mitigation negotiated by the proponent and the impacted parties.
Major economic development projects which have the potential to impact individuals in the Amisk-Atik area will be required to recognize those impacts; legal claims for compensation to be negotiated between parties involved.

3.15 Consultation

During development of this plan, the people living and working in the Amisk-Atik area identified their desires to be involved in resource management decision-making. Recognizing that SE has the mandate to manage human impacts on the environment and natural resources, the public can play a vital role in these processes by becoming involved.

Consultation with the public in the Amisk-Atik area is critical to ensuring the success of natural resource development projects. People living in the area want to be aware of what is happening around them. The majority of conflicts that occur arise as a result of a lack of communication and information exchange between SE, the proponents, and the public. It is recognized that most problems can be resolved through consultation in the planning stage of a project, before a development is approved.

Strategies aim at improving consultation with the public, particularly in the initial review stages of development plans. It is noted that much of the consultation will be between the proponent and potentially affected resource users, often facilitated by SE.

Recommended Strategy
Consultation with local communities on proposed activities within the Amisk-Atik is required (see Figure 2-3), and if conflicts are not resolved SE may establish a mediation process.
Local advisory/co-management boards to remain in effect for each community in the Amisk-Atik area, and any new developments should be discussed with affected community boards prior to approval. Any large developments that will affect the Amisk-Atik area will require a more extensive review by more community boards through public meetings.
SE to protect traditional resource use and cultural values by meeting with communities and bands to discuss resource management plans, and requiring other resource users to meet with communities and bands to discuss resource use plans.

Recommended Action	**Suggested Implementation Time Frame**	**Apparent Responsible Party(s)**
Provide contact information(contact list for trappers and disposition holders) to mining companies at the exploration permit stage to enable the required consultation: the companies will then report to SE on their consultation progress and make them aware of who has been contacted, if there are conflicts or concerns, and wether mediation is necessary.	Immediate /ongoing	SE
Require information from proponents (forestry, mining, ect.) that will inform the public ofanticipated socio-economic factors in their proposals (numbers of jobs, time lines, wages, training packages/programs, ect.).	Immediate / ongoing	SE
SE (Shield EcoRegion Forestry staff) to develop and implement a consultation policy for commercial forest activities in the Amisk-Atik allowing the public opportunities to comment on forest operating plans. In particular, ensuring that other resource users in the immediate area have the opportunity to become involved during the review stage of the plans.	Immediate /ongoing	SE

3.16 Monitoring

The forest ecosystem is constantly changing, both from natural processes and from human activities. Some processes and activities and their effects on the ecosystem can be predicted, but many cannot. In light of this, a SE ecosystem health monitoring program and the Forest Management Effects Monitoring program have both been initiated. People in the Amisk-Atik area are concerned about the health of their environment, and have a desire to be involved in these government processes.

Recommended Strategy
The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board, co-management boards and local leadership should be kept informed of SE ecosystem health monitoring results on an annual basis.
Individuals and/or co-management boards may raise concerns about the environment and implementation of the Amisk-Atik land use plan. SE to address public concerns.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Government to encourage the development of training programs for Amisk-Atik people to understand government and industry environmental monitoring programs and to enable people to participate.	Immediate /ongoing	SE Industry
SE to work with local communities and resource users to gather information on wildlife populations, and monitor health and movement of wildlife populations.	Immediate /ongoing	SE
Due to increased industrial activity in the Amisk-Atik area, SE, PBCN, The Forest Company, and local communities to work together to ensure agreement from all resource users.	When initiated / ongoing	SE PBCN Industry

3.17 Integration of Planning Processes

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest land Use Plan Area is situated in Northeastern Saskatchewan. It is bordered to the east by the Saskatchewan-Manitoba provincial border, to the south by the Pasquia-Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, to the North by the Athabasca Land Use Plan and to the west by the North Central Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. The North Central and Athabasca plans are in the early stages of development.

Opportunity to provide input to the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan was provided to the general public and the Local and Regional Advisory Boards involved in the development and implementation of the bordering land use plans. Public and technical review of the Amisk-Atik IFLUP Draft Plan provided the public and Government the opportunity for review and commentary.

Many of the recommendations from the Pasquia-Porcupine plan were taken into consideration in the development of the Amisk-Atik plan. Changes to the Amisk-Atik IFLUP Draft Plan were required as the result of consultation with the general public and local representatives developing bordering land use plans. Ongoing consultation will promote the integration of planning processes in adjacent areas.

Completed land use plans, once approved by the Minister, Saskatchewan Environment, are living documents. Opportunity to annually evaluate and revise the land use plan will promote ongoing integration and provide the opportunity for consensus on issues affecting jurisdictions in and adjacent to the planning area. A formal review of the Land Use Plan by government, the public, and The Regional Advisory Board is required every 5 years.

Recommended Strategy
SE will ensure that the Athabasca Land Use Plan process will consult the communities of Kinoosao and Southend to provide them the opportunity to assist and mutually develop management strategies for their adjacent lands and all of the water and lands enclosed by Reindeer Lake. Until the Athabasca Land Use Plan is approved, the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan management strategies should be considered and applied to all of Reindeer Lake.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND TIMELINES

The Amisk-Atik Regional and Local Advisory Boards recommended actions have been grouped into four categories. Recommended Actions were grouped into categories by assessing implementation factors, specifically time frame and budgetary requirements.

Category 1: Recommended actions can be implemented immediately. Existing budgets and staff can accommodate Regional Advisory Board priorities.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
1.7 Relationship to Other LUP's SE will continue to consult with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Chief and Council, and other affected resource users in efforts to resolve requested changes to the Amisk-Atik planning area.	Immediate / ongoing	SE all affected resource users
3.1 Environmental Protection Qualified personnel establish and maintain a list of known contaminated sites in the plan area. Clean up of the contaminated sites to be prioritized. SE to enforce clean up by the responsible party. Contaminated sites to be cleaned up within one year of their occurrence.	immediate/or within one year of their occurrence	party responsible for the pollution or SE
3.1 Environmental Protection SE to consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible projects planned for the area.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Develop a priority list of water bodies to be monitored, based on their proximity to planned active projects. Consideration of the level of use by local communities and affected resource users is required.	2002 / 2003	SE Sask Water Corp

3.1.2.2 Stream Management During the review of major development proposals that include stream crossings, SE will provide the general public an opportunity to provide comments.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
3.1.2.2 Stream Management All Acts, Regulations, rules, and operating guidelines be followed during development projects; monitored and enforced.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
3.1.3 Solid Waste Management Information and education on requirements to develop and maintain waste disposal sites will be available at SE offices.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.1.5 Vegetation Control Comprehensive development plans for the application of herbicide must ensure that water resources, fish and wildlife, and critical habitat areas are identified and protected.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management SE review of proposed harvest operation plans for the Amisk-Atik planning area will give due consideration to maintaining the biological and ecological diversity of forest ecosystems.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry
3.2 Biological and Ecological Diversity Management As it is completed, the Saskatchewan Framework for a Saskatchewan Biodiversity Action Plan August 2000, should be incorporated and applied to management of the Amisk-Atik plan area.	immediate/ongoing	SE Industry

3.5 Fisheries Management Establish and maintain co-management boards for established regions in the Amisk-Atik plan area (may be beneficial to utilize Local Community Advisory Boards developed by the land use planning process).	immediate/ongoing	SE Northern Affairs Industry
3.5 Fisheries Management Educate the public regarding the legal purchase of fish from commercial fishermen. The commercial fisher must provide the purchaser a receipt with information required.	ongoing	SE
3.5 Fisheries Management Finalize and establish fish spawn closures initiated through the Amisk-Atik land use plan process. Consultation with the public, affected resource users, and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation to be verified. Locations of existing and proposed fish spawn closures can be obtained from local SE offices.	2002 / 2003 angling season ongoing consultation may initiate additional closures	SE
3.6 Wildlife Management Restrict access to known moose and caribou calving islands in lakes and muskegs.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
3.6 Wildlife Management Establish buffer zones free of development around known active raptor nest locations, with particular attention to bald eagles and osprey; around nesting colonies of colonial waterfowl species such as great blue heron, gull and tern species, double crested cormorants, pelicans; and known wolf and coyote den locations.	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent
3.6 Wildlife Management Identify endangered species that occur in the planning area and follow guidelines established in recovery plans for those species.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.6 Wildlife Management Follow guidelines established by SE for protecting rare and endangered species of plants and animals.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.6 Wildlife Management Follow guidelines for road and trail construction that cause the least disturbance to wildlife.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.6.1 Road Corridor Game Preserves Development plans for new roads (including game corridor restrictions) should be submitted to the RAB at the same time they are submitted to government for regulatory approvals.	Immediate / ongoing	SE Proponent
3.7 Forestry Continue to work towards improving utilization standards (e.g. improved top utilization and deciduous / hardwood utilization, etc.) while recognizing other forest values (e.g. brush for small animals). Examples of strategies would be reviewing forest policy, identifying new markets, etc.	ongoing	The Forest Company SE Independent Forest Operators
3.7 Forestry In addition to providing the TLE information to SE, ensure the Forest Company Partnership has current TLE maps and information so their planning is done with accurate information.	immediate/ongoing	PBCN The Forest Company
3.7 Forestry Initiate TSL process for assigning volumes to independent forestry operators in the Amisk-Atik area.	Immediate/ongoing	SE
3.7.1 Forest Fire Protection Create a fire priorities map for the Amisk-Atik area with ongoing consultation with local people and communities.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.7.2 Insect and Disease Management SE will consult the RAB and affected communities to determine the most effective means of informing residents of infestation control programs (in particular, spraying).	immediate/ongoing	SE Proponent

3.8 Resource Development Saskatchewan Environment, as the administrator of the land base, will ensure the resource development proposals are reviewed by all interests that may be affected by the development.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8 Resource Development All those representing an interest will confirm in writing to SE the types of developments they would expect to review.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development Monitor and annually document who controls access to sand and gravel resources in the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development All existing pits (sand, gravel, quarrying) within the proposed 200 meter sensitive area / zone of the Sturgeon-weir River are to be decommissioned and the sites reclaimed as soon as possible.	immediate/ongoing	SE Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation
3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development The gravel pit located at the Sturgeon-weir River, six kilometers down Matheson Road, be reclaimed and decommissioned (specific to the 200 meter sensitive area / zone) as soon as possible; the Matheson Road be left accessible for the six kilometers up to the pit and the road closed from that point onward.	immediate	SE
3.8.3 Infrastructure Development SE will consult and keep the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board informed on possible infrastructure projects planned for the planning area.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.3.1 Roads Work together to develop a plan to control nuisance beavers and minimize the impact on roads.	immediate/ongoing	The Forest Company, SE, Saskatchewan Department of Highways and Transportation, Mining Association, Trappers Association, and Wildlife Association

3.8.3.2 Electrical Services SaskPower development plans to meet the existing and projected future need of electrical services for industry, expanding towns and businesses in the Amisk-Atik planning area, should be provided to the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board and local communities on their request.	ongoing	SaskPower
3.8.4 Cabins SE to ensure the proponent consults with all affected disposition holders (trappers, cabin owners, FMA proponent, ect.) and First Nations PBCN community (Denare Beach) prior to approving the recreation lease. SE to mediate a resolution to any concerns.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.4 Cabins SE to inventory possible areas for the development of recreational sub-divisions and recreational lease sites that may or may not be adjacent to lakes. Existing access only, no new access allowed. Impacts to fish and wildlife must be minimized. Proponent may request a specific site in the approved development area, subject to SE review and approval.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.4 Cabins SE to ensure proponents that submit a request to develop a recreation sub-division or remote recreation lease are informed regarding process and requirements to proceed.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.8.5 Wild Rice Investigate the requirement to initiate detailed studies to assess possible impacts to lake ecosystems resultant from growing wild rice. Research should encompass and consider the growing of wild rice over short-term and long-term time frames.	2002/2003 ongoing	SE Saskatchewan Agriculture & Food

3.9.1 Camping SE to monitor recreational use and activity along the Sturgeon-weir River to determine recreation needs (designating campsites, ect.), or if their is a need to limit the number of people in the area.	ongoing observation & consultation with affected resource users	SE
3.9.2 Snowmobiling Reduce impacts from snowmobiling activity to resource users by providing information and educating the public. Promote and ensure safety through consultation processes.	immediate/ongoing	Mining Industry Forest Industry Snowmobile Clubs Trapping Association SE
3.10 Tourism Complete the development of operating guidelines for Eco-tourism operations.	ongoing	SE
3.11 Economic Development Government must outline, document, and communicate the Saskatchewan government's forest economic development vision/strategy for the North, and communities must clearly express their vision for the future to Government.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.11 Economic Development New developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area be encouraged to hire local residents for at least 50% of the new hires.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.12 Enforcement SE to investigate the feasibility of improving enforcement and public service capabilities in northern communities in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Establishing new SE offices and/or hiring additional staff should be considered. At a minimum regular scheduled Conservation Officer days in communities is recommended.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.12 Enforcement Review the terms and conditions applied to commercial leases and the conversion of lease policy to ensure flexibility, protection and enforcement capability for the management of crown lands.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.13 Education Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities(eg., public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).	ongoing	SE, The Forest Company
3.15 Consultation Provide contact information (contact list for trappers and disposition holders) to mining companies at the exploration permit stage to enable the required consultation; the companies will then report to SE on their consultation progress and make them aware of who has been contacted, if there are conflicts or concerns, and wether mediation may be necessary.	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.15 Consultation SE (Shield EcoRegion Forestry Staff) to develop and implement a consultation policy for commercial forest activities in the Amisk-Atik allowing the public opportunities to comment on forest operating plans. In particular, ensuring that other resource users in the immediate area have the opportunity to become involved during the review stage of the plans.	Immediate/ongoing	SE
3.15 Consultation Require information from proponents (forestry, mining, etc.) that will inform the public of anticipated socio-economic factors in their proposals (number of jobs, time lines, wages, training packages/programs, etc.)	immediate/ongoing	SE
3.16 Monitoring SE to work with local communities and resource users to gather information on wildlife populations, and monitor health and movement of wildlife populations.	immediate/ongoing	SE

3.16 Monitoring Due to increased industrial activity in the Amisk-Atik area, SE, PBCN, The Forest Company, and local communities to work together to ensure agreement from all resource users.	when initiated/ongoing	SE PBCN Industry
Chapter 5: Implementation Strategies The Regional and Local Advisory Boards will set up terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future. SE will assist and make every effort to maintain Local and Regional Advisory Boards.	immediate	SE Local and Regional Advisory Boards
5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy Dispute resolution should begin with collaborative problem solving processes involving SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and/or Regional Advisory Board, affected resource users, and if applicable, the proponent requesting approval for development.	immediate/ongoing	SE Local and Regional Advisory Boards affected resource users Proponent
5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy At the local and Regional level SE staff will maintain consultation processes that prevent and resolve conflict involving environment and resource management issues. If local dispute resolution processes are not successful, SE will document the areas of agreement and disagreement for the parties involved, including possible options for resolution, and forward to the appropriate Minister(s) for resolution. Resolution must be within the framework of existing legislation.	immediate/ongoing	Affected parties SE Appropriate Minister(s)

Category 2:

Recommended actions will be difficult to implement immediately. Additional staff, equipment, and funding may be required. Normal budgeting processes for additional funding will be required. Government priorities may have to be adjusted in order to fulfill actions. Public consultation suggests recommended actions in this category be given highest priority and implemented as soon as possible.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Large reservoirs such as Reindeer Lake be monitored by conducting annual water quality assessments. Corrective measures to be taken to ensure environmental health and water quality are maintained.	2002 / 2003	SE Sask Water Corp
3.5 Fisheries Management Creel surveys should be conducted during the angling season. Locations and times to conduct survey be based on monitoring critical impacts to the fishery.	Initiate as required in 2002 / 2003 angling season	SE
3.5 Fisheries Management A priority list of lakes and lake systems requiring lake management plans should be established. A minimum of two lake management plans to be initiated / completed annually.	Establish priorities 2002 / 2003 initiate management plans 2003 / 2004	SE
3.5 ***Fisheries Management*** SE to continue to evaluate the process of allocating and maintaining quotas, and involve affected resource users in the ongoing assessment of fisheries allocations.	ongoing	SE
3.10 Tourism Saskatchewan Environment to encourage agencies responsible for tourism to extensively promote tourism in northeast Saskatchewan, particularly recreation facilities and services available in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Promotional material to be made available to the public at strategic locations in the planning area.	2002/2003	SE

3.10 Tourism The current resource allocation system, in particular fish resource allocation for lakes, needs to be reassessed to allow opportunities for new tourism operations; first opportunity and priority should be given to Aboriginal people. (attention should be directed to the unused portion currently allocated to day-use lakes and allocations available to the tourism industry.)	immediate	SE

Category 3:

Recommended actions can not be implemented immediately. Additional staff, equipment, and funding may be required. Normal budgeting processes for additional funding will be required. Public consultation suggests recommended actions in this category should be implemented once recommended actions of categories 1 and 2 have been realized. Government priorities may have to be adjusted to acknowledge ongoing consultations.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
3.1.2.1 Ground Water Protection Add regulations and legal requirements to protect water quality to the Saskatchewan Anglers Guide section identified as Protect Yourself- Protect Your Environment.	2002 / 2003 angling season	SE
3.5 Fisheries Management Investigate assistance available from University researchers to provide survey design, computer analysis, dynamic modeling for fish populations, and co-ordination of data use, for a system study of the major lakes in the planning area.	2002 / 2003	SE
3.7 Forestry Prepare an access management plan with a well-defined public involvement process. All resource users to be consulted.	Within 1st year of TSL ongoing	The Forest Company

3.7 Forestry Develop a plan for reducing and eliminating reforestation backlog. The plan should include actions to completely access backlog, and options for renewing areas, with priority given to areas with highest productivity potential.	Activity to begin immediately Target for completion of plan should be five years from the time the Land Use Plan is approved. Not sufficiently regenerated (NSR) forest stands are to be planted or treated within 10 years of Land Use Plan approval.	SE (consultation with the Forest Company)
3.8.2 Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development The Department of Highways and Transportation to provide their requirements and management plan for sand and gravel resources in the planning area to Saskatchewan Environment.	ongoing	Saskatchewan Department Highways and Transportation.
3.8.3.1 Roads Study of the road network and road access needs in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning area by the Northeast Transportation Committee is ongoing. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board request the minutes of the meetings be forwarded to them care of: Land Use Planner, Amisk-Atik IFLUP, Sustainable Land Management, SE, Box 3003 Cental Avenue, Prince Albert, SK.	immediate/ongoing	Saskatchewan Dept. of Highways and Transportation
3.9.1 Camping Initiate detailed studies, and prepare and implement a Recreation Site Upgrade and Development Strategy. Strategy should set priorities for sites to be improved or upgraded. A minimum of one site per year should be upgraded.	2002/2003	SE
3.9.1 Camping A map of currently utilized back country campsites in the planning area to be developed, to provide the public information and locations for wilderness camping opportunities.	2002/2003	SE

3.13 Education Work together to develop opportunities for public tours of forestry operations to educate people in the communities. (e.g. public facility tours, employee tours to different departments of the operation, working with local advisory boards to develop workshops or tours to meet local educational needs).	immediate/ongoing	SE The Forest Company
3.13 Education Incorporate resource management (e.g. Focus on Forests, Project Wet, Project Wild) and forestry education into the school curriculum in Saskatchewan, particularly in the Amisk-Atik planning area.	ongoing	Department of Education PBCN SE

Category 4:
Recommended actions will require significant funding. Recommended actions would provide social and economic benefits, now and in the future. The expectation of the Regional Advisory Board is that implementation of category 4 recommendations will take an extended period of time.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
3.7 Forestry Ensure that adequate data — forest inventory (forest inventory will be per agreement with FMA / SE), fish and wildlife populations, etc. — is collected to promote good management and maintenance of healthy forest resource populations.	immediate/ongoing	SE The Forest Company
3.8.3.3 Other Infrastructure Issues Government to investigate where infrastructure development may be needed(e.g. regional air services facilities, specifically the airport at Pelican Narrows, and the feasibility of this becoming a regional fire-fighting tanker base / areas suitable for future recreational subdivision development).	Initial discussion 2002/2003 ongoing	SE

3.11 Economic Development Government and Industry to encourage value-added opportunities in the Amisk-Atik area by identifying impediments to these new value-added industries and creating strategies to address them (e.g., road infrastructure, natural gas pipeline).	immediate/ongoing	Government Industry
3.16 Monitoring Government to encourage the development of training programs for Amisk-Atik people to understand government and industry environmental monitoring programs and to enable people to participate.	immediate/ongoing	SE

CHAPTER 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

5.1 Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan involves several critical components. These include monitoring forest users to ensure compliance with applicable legislation; ecological research and monitoring to evaluate forest management practices; monitoring and evaluation of the plan itself, including a comprehensive review and update every five years; and continued, effective, public involvement. Ongoing public involvement processes will support Government and Industry during implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Time frames for implementation of recommended actions are specified in the plan. Priorities for implementation have been established by the Regional Advisory Board. Implementation in some areas may require additional Government funding. Flexibility will be important to the successful implementation of the land use plan.

The Regional Advisory Board, public, and Industry will collaborate with SE and other Government agencies to ensure every effort is made to implement the land use plan in the true spirit of co-operation. Ongoing public consultation that recognizes and respects all resource users will be essential to successful implementation of the land use plan. The role of the Regional Advisory Board during the implementation of the plan will be primarily to ensure strategies and actions are being realized.

Recommended Strategy
Ensure the authority of the Land Use Plan is broad enough, with flexible timelines to implement recommended actions, so that all of its recommendations can be implemented.
Local Advisory Boards to meet a minimum of twice annually (or as needed) after implementation of the Land Use Plan (to be determined by each Local Advisory Board).
The Regional Advisory Board to meet four times per year during initial implementation of the Land Use Plan, and then a minimum of once each year (or as needed).
SE will provide the opportunity for the continuation of interagency and interest group co-operation and consensus building in the implementation of the land use plan (e.g., continue the Local and Regional Advisory Boards, adapting its membership and structure to ensure appropriate representation of users and communities within the planning area).

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
The Regional and Local Advisory Boards will set up terms of reference defining what their goals, responsibilities, and duties will be for the future. SE will assist and make every effort to maintain Local and Regional Advisory Boards.	immediate	Local Boards Regional Advisory Board SE

5.2 Monitoring the Plan

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan must be monitored and evaluated so that it can be revised whenever necessary to adapt to changing circumstances, to incorporate new information, and to adjust actions if plan goals and objectives are not being achieved. Plan monitoring and evaluation will involve SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and Regional Advisory Boards, communities, Aboriginal people, industry, affected resource users, and the general public.

Ongoing plan monitoring and evaluation will focus on the following components:
(1) compliance with plan recommendations, the goal, principles and objectives; and
(2) effectiveness of the recommendations in achieving plan objectives.

The results of monitoring and evaluation will be used to change recommendations. As results are made available, the public will have the opportunity to provide input as to how the plan should be amended.

5.3 Amending the Plan

Amendments to the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan may be required. These amendments will be subject to Section 16 of the Forest Resources Management Act, in that a formal public review every 5 years may result in requests to the Minister to amend the plan. The Regional Advisory Board and the public may provide input into this formal review. SE is responsible for preparing the written 5 year review of the land use plan. The public will be given the opportunity to provide comments on the document prior to revisions being made to the plan.

Special circumstances may require amendments to the plan prior to the formal 5 year public review process. SE staff, through consultation with affected parties will document the need for amendments to the plan and may adjust and apply policy accordingly until the formal 5 year public review process is in effect. These changes will then be incorporated into the next formal review. In this way, the plan will be flexible and remain effective.

Recommended Strategy
A formal review of the Land Use Plan done every five years by government, the public, and the Regional Advisory Board. Amendments to the Amisk-Atik IFLUP may be necessary in the interests of the conservation, development, enhancement, maintenance, management, protection or utilization of renewable and non-renewable resources on provincial forest lands. The Minister may amend the plan subject to a public review in accordance with any procedures set out in the regulations (Section 16 of the Forest Resources Management Act). These amendments would normally occur at the formal 5 year review.

5.4 Dispute Resolution Strategy

Consensus decision making was used in order to reduce conflict during the development of this plan. The intent is to prevent conflict from materializing in situations whenever possible. Various mechanisms to help prevent conflict have been used in the planning process. Examples of these include integrated planning based on managing resources for a variety of interests and benefits, developing strategies to deal with conflict over resources, providing and maintaining the opportunity for public involvement, and recognition of the environmental assessment process required for major developments such as mining and forestry. Section 3.8, Resource Development, provides relevant information to proponents that will assist in preventing or reducing the potential for conflict to occur. It is recognized that it is not always possible to prevent conflict. It is important that a dispute resolution process is in place in the event that conflict does occur.

Recommended Strategy
As required SE representatives will mediate during discussions to promote understanding among different users and interest groups, and assist to resolve disputes involving recommended resource management strategies in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Recommended Action	Suggested Implementation Time Frame	Apparent Responsible Party(s)
Dispute resolution should begin with collaborative problem solving processes involving SE, other Government Agencies, the Local and/or Regional Advisory Board, affected resource users, and if applicable, the proponent requesting approval for development.	immediate	Local Boards Regional Advisory Board SE affected resource user(s) Proponent

At the local and Regional level SE staff will maintain consultation processes that prevent and resolve conflict involving environment and resource management issues. If local dispute resolution processes are not successful, SE will document the areas of agreement and disagreement for the parties involved, including possible options for resolution, and forward to the appropriate Cabinet Minister(s) for resolution. Resolution must be within the framework of existing legislation.	immediate/ongoing	affected parties SE Appropriate Minister(s)

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GLOSSARY

adaptive management - management practices that are monitored, evaluated, and adjusted (as required), based on current knowledge and understandings.

advisory board - a diverse group of people from the local community who have dedicated time and energy to the completion of this land use plan. The board's function is to bring these people together and, through open discussion of land use issues, help one another understand others' concerns and land use management needs. Consensus-based recommendations have resulted from these discussions.

aesthetics - the natural beauty of the environment.

annual allowable cut (AAC) - an expression of the maximum volume of timber that may be harvested each year from an area of land.

annual operating plan (AOP) - a one year forestry plan prepared in conjunction with a licence; usually contains operating requirements.

agriculture - agriculture includes activities such as cultivation and production of crops, dairying, raising poultry, and gardening. Activity is not limited to commercial enterprises and can include raising animals such as horses for personal enjoyment.

base metal - any of the common and more chemically active metals, e.g. Copper, zinc, nickel.

benchmark - something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured.

berm - an artificial ridge or embankment, as used in decommissioning roads.

biological diversity (biodiversity) - the variety of different forms of life, including the variety of genes, species, and ecosystems.

biota - the animal and plant life of a region.

boreal forest - the forest of northern regions, dominated by spruce, fir, pine, larch, poplar, and birch.

browse - leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs, used as food by plant-eating animals.

B-train - a combination of vehicles composed of a tractor and a semi-trailer towing another semi-trailer, attached to a fifth wheel, mounted on the rear of the first semi-trailer.

clear-cutting - harvesting of all merchantable trees from an area of land.

co-management - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, co-management is a way for the Department and stakeholders to work cooperatively to undertake integrated resource management. Inclusiveness, or involvement of all stakeholders, is key to co-management. The department and stakeholders share planning and decision-making as well as ownership of the process. The form co-management takes depends on types and numbers of stakeholders, objectives of the process, resource-specific factors, allocation methods, or changing circumstances.

commercial development - developments to be used exclusively for any enterprise directed to and for the purpose of economic or material gain.

committee - the group invested with the authority and responsibility for plan implementation.

conifer - trees that bear cones and have needle-like leaves.

consensus - all those who have a stake in the outcome reach mutual agreement in sentiment or belief on actions and outcomes that resolve or advance issues related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Cretaceous - the geological period covering the time span of 65 to 135 million years ago.

Crown land - land under the tenure of the provincial or federal government.

cut-over - an area of forest land from which some or all of the timber has been recently cut.

deciduous - trees that drop their leaves.

development - the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on, or over land or the making of any material change in the use or intensity of use of any building or land.

dolomite - mineral or rock of calcium magnesium carbonate.

ecological integrity - the composition, structure, and function of the ecosystem are unimpaired by human-caused stresses, the native species are present at viable population levels.

ecological land classification (ELC) - a system by which land units are identified and mapped, based on ecological features such as climate, soil, and vegetation.

ecological region (ecoregion) - a relatively large area of land characterized by a distinctive regional climate as expressed by general patterns of vegetation, soils, water, and fauna.

ecosystem - an area of land or water, considered in relation to all of its components (soil, water, air, plants, animals, microbes) and the interactions among them. A forest stand is an ecosystem if it is viewed as an interacting system of all of these components, and not just as a group of trees.

ecosystem health - a natural balance of physical, chemical, and biological components that make up the ecosystem.

ecotourism - tourism based on experiencing and learning about natural ecosystems, based on education of and non-consumptive use of natural resources.

ecozone - a broad-scale ecological unit that is based on patterns that include climate, geography, and ecological diversity. The ecozone lies at the top of the ecological hierarchy.

endangered species - a species that faces threats that may lead to its extinction in a short time.

Environmental Impact Assessment (**EIA**) - a procedure outlining a development being proposed, its anticipated effects, alternative steps to be taken, and mitigation of undesirable environmental effects.

even-aged - describes a forest stand in which trees are of approximately the same age.

exotic - describes a species not native to a given area, introduced from elsewhere.

fen - a wetland with a peat substrate (>40 cm) and a very slow internal flow of water at or above the surface; providing some nutrients and oxygen; and supporting mosses, sedges, shrubs, and sometimes a sparse tree cover of mostly tamarack and some black spruce.

fertilization - application of fertilizers to increase productivity.

forbs - a non-grasslike herbaceous plant (lacking a woody stem).

full supply line - is the line depicting the high water level of the reservoir that would be required for the operation of a hydro electric project.

Forest Management Agreement (**FMA**) - agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and a forest company to give the company long-term access to timber as well as management responsibilities on a specified area of land.

geographic information system (**GIS**) - a computer system used to store and analyze map information.

hardwood - broad-leaved trees; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Hardwoods belong to the botanical group *Angiospermae* and are the dominant type of tree in a deciduous forest.

Harvest Volume Schedule (**HVS**) - the amount of wood fibre that can be harvested annually from the existing forest without jeopardizing long-run sustainability of the timber supply.

integrated resource management (**IRM**) - management of the whole forest ecosystem, which allows for a broad range of resource uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be involved in management planning.

intensive management - management with relatively high investment of time and money per unit area; intensive silviculture generally implies such things as intensive site preparation, use of genetically improved planting stock, weeding, thinning, or pruning.

landscape - an area of land which includes a variety of interconnected ecosystems. For example, an area with aspen forest on the uplands and sedge meadows in the depression.

loam - a soil containing a mixture of sand, silt, and clay.

mature - lesser vegetation, trees, stands or communities that are at the mid to seral stage in their development.

merchantable - describes a tree or stand that has attained sufficient size, quality, and/or volume to make it suitable (in economic terms) for harvesting.

metamorphosed - the process where a rock is changed through heat and pressure into a new, chemically different rock.

mitigation - to reduce the severity of or eliminate negative impacts resulting from a particular activity.

mixedwood - forest stand with both hardwoods and softwoods present in significant amounts.

not satisfactorily restocked (**NSR**) - describes productive forest land on which the forest has been cut or burned and not adequately regenerated; also referred to as not sufficiently regenerated.

Ordovician - the geologic period covering the time span of 440 to 500 million years ago.

partnerships - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, partnerships are formed between the department and stakeholders to work toward a common goal. Three kinds of partnerships, or combinations among them, are most often used: ***consultative partnerships*** - where there is discussion on an issue, plus shared responsibility for accountability, commitment, integrity, and outcome; ***task partnerships*** - where there is shared work in developing a product, program, or process; ***sponsorships or contributory partnerships*** - where shared finances result in a shared product or program.

partial cutting - any timber harvest in which only part of the stand is cut.

Phanerozoic - that part of geologic time represented by rocks in which life is abundant. 545 million years ago and younger.

planting - establishing a forest stand by setting out seedlings, transplants, or cuttings.

Precambrian - all geologic time, and its corresponding rocks, before the phanerozoic. 545 million years ago and older.

productive forest land (or **timber-productive land**) - land capable of producing merchantable stands of timber within a "reasonable length of time".

protected area - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, a geographically defined area or site which is designated in legislation and restricted from general use by the public for a conservation purpose.

pruning - removal of live or dead branches from standing trees.

RAB - The Regional Advisory Board is a group of people designated to represent their communities and the wishes of their local advisory boards.

RAN - Representative Areas Network is composed of lands and waters selected and designated to represent the natural and ecological and biological diversity of the province and managed to retain that diversity. Sites within the RAN act both as reservoirs of biological diversity and benchmarks for comparison with the more heavily utilized landscape.

rare species - a species with a small population, but not necessarily declining or in danger of extinction.

regeneration - renewal of a forest stand (e.g. establishment of new young trees) by natural or artificial means.

resource - generally, any supply of something that can be useful for economic, social, cultural, or aesthetic purposes.

riparian zone - Riparian areas are the interface between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems which display sharp gradients of plant communities, ecological processes, and environmental factors. The riparian zone not only provides a corridor for the movement and maintenance of animals but largely influences the adjacent aquatic environment by absorbing solar radiation, retaining dissolved nutrients and terrestrial particulate inputs, and subsequently determining aquatic invertebrate and vertebrate populations. Proper delineation of riparian areas incorporates an assessment of vegetative, edaphic, topographic, and hydrologic criteria (Gregory et al 1991).

rotation - the planned number of years between the regeneration of a forest stand and its final harvest.

scarification - loosening the topsoil or breaking up the forest floor in preparation for regeneration by natural or artificial seeding or planting.

sedimentary - any rock composed of sediments, animal remains, or chemicals previously held in solution.

seeding - establishing a forest stand by sowing of seeds.

selection cutting - uneven-aged silvicultural system in which trees are removed individually or in small groups, continuously or at relatively short intervals.

shorelands - the land between high and low water marks that adjoins land to water.

silviculture - the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, growth, and quality of forest stands to achieve management objectives.

site - an area of land characterized by the climatic, soil, and biological factors that determine its suitability and productivity for particular tree species and vegetation types. For example, a dry sand plain which supports jack pine-lichen vegetation with low productivity.

site preparation - treatment (mechanical, chemical, fire, or hand) that modifies the site to provide favourable conditions for natural or artificial regeneration.

softwood - cone-bearing trees with needles or scale-like leaves; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Softwoods belong to the botanical group *Gymnospermae* and are the predominate tree type in coniferous forests.

stakeholders - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, people or groups with an interest or 'stake' in what the department does. Stakeholders include all people, groups, or organizations that are directly influenced by actions of SE, or whose actions have an influence on the department.

stand - a patch of forest which is fairly uniform in species composition and distribution of tree heights and ages.

subsistence use - use of forest resources (e.g. fish and game, food and medicinal plants, fuelwood and building timber) by local people for personal consumption.

succession - the sequence of stages through which an ecosystem develops, following some disturbance which alters part or all of the previous ecosystem. For example, after a fire burns a mature forest, the ecosystem passes through a series of successional stages leading up to a new mature forest.

sustainable development - a general approach to combining economic development with environmental protection that has been described as "...use of resources in a way that satisfies the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their needs".

sustainable management - management to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological integrity of forest ecosystems, while providing economic, social, cultural, and spiritual opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

term supply licence (TSL) - is a licence granted by the Minister of Saskatchewan Environment conferring the right to harvest specified forest products, pursuant to section 42 of the Forest Resources Management Act. The term for the licence is two to ten years.

threatened species - species that are declining in numbers, to the point that there is a concern about possible extinction of that species.

till - material deposited by glaciers and ice sheets without modification by any other means of transportation.

tourism - the enhancement of natural features by providing goods and services attracting visitors to the area.

traditional territories - lands that were historically used by particular Aboriginal peoples prior to European settlement.

uneven-aged - describes a forest stand in which intermingling trees differ markedly in age.

water bodies - collections of water such as lakes, sloughs, rivers, or creeks, and do not necessarily have to contain fish.

zero impact mineral exploration - mineral exploration activities that do not significantly disturb the natural landscape. This includes such activities as: geological mapping, prospecting, surveying, flagged reference lines, geochemical sampling by hand (soil, stream sediment, water, lake sediment, rock), and airborne and hand-held ground geophysical surveying. Excluded activities would include: cut reference and grid lines, road or trail construction, trenching or stripping activities, geochemical sampling and geophysical surveying with tracked or wheeled equipment, and diamond drilling.

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Background Document

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

The Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan consists of the following three separate documents: (1) the Background Document; (2) the Management Plan; and (3) the Appendices.

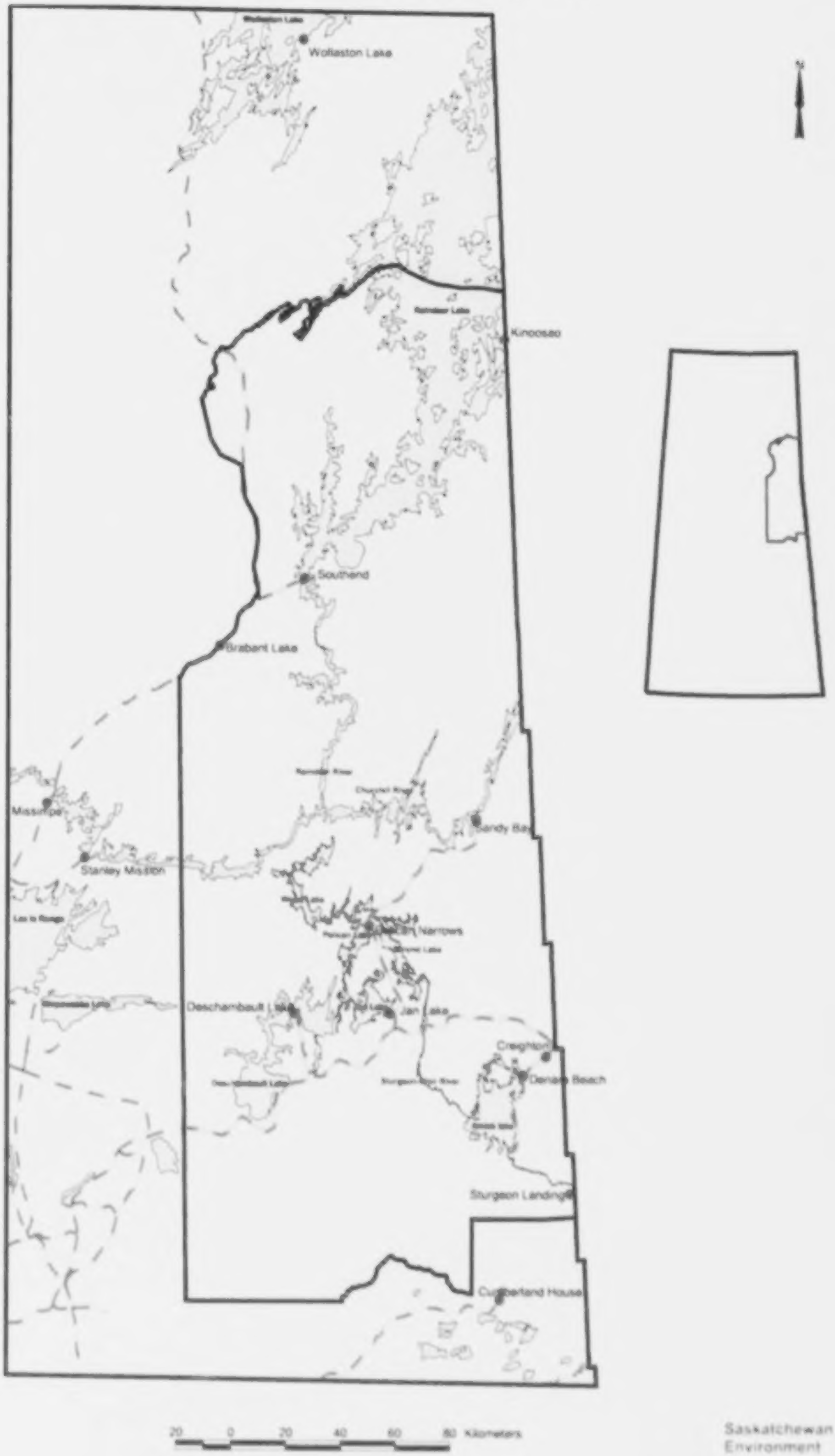
1.1 Purpose of the Background Document

The purpose of this Background Document is to provide a basic description of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area and the land use planning process that has taken place. General information is presented to describe the natural, heritage, and recreational resources, as well as the infrastructure and socio-economic characteristics of the Amisk-Atik area. A brief overview also highlights the local, provincial, and federal government organizations, legislation, policies, and by-laws that affect the management of the area's provincial crown land and resources.

The Amisk-Atik Planning Area covers almost 4.4 million hectares of forested land in northern Saskatchewan (See Figure 1-1). The name, "Amisk-Atik", reflects both the geography of the region and the strong traditional ties of Aboriginal peoples to the planning area. "Amisk" is the Cree word for "beaver" and refers to Amisk Lake located in the southern portion of the planning area. "Atik" is the Cree name for "reindeer" and provides a reference to Reindeer Lake situated in the north.

Saskatchewan's northeastern provincial forests are more than just a collection of trees. These forested lands provide environmental, social, and economic benefits to area residents and also the larger populations of Saskatchewan's Northern Administration District and that of the province as a whole. To some individuals, these forests are a place to enjoy nature and participate in recreational activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, and hunting. To others, especially the residents of the planning area, these forest resources are a mainstay to a traditional Aboriginal lifestyle and play a key role in the ongoing existence of northern communities and the development of the regional economy. Increased demands on these resources call for improved ways of managing and protecting northern forests. A more integrated approach for the management of forested lands is required.

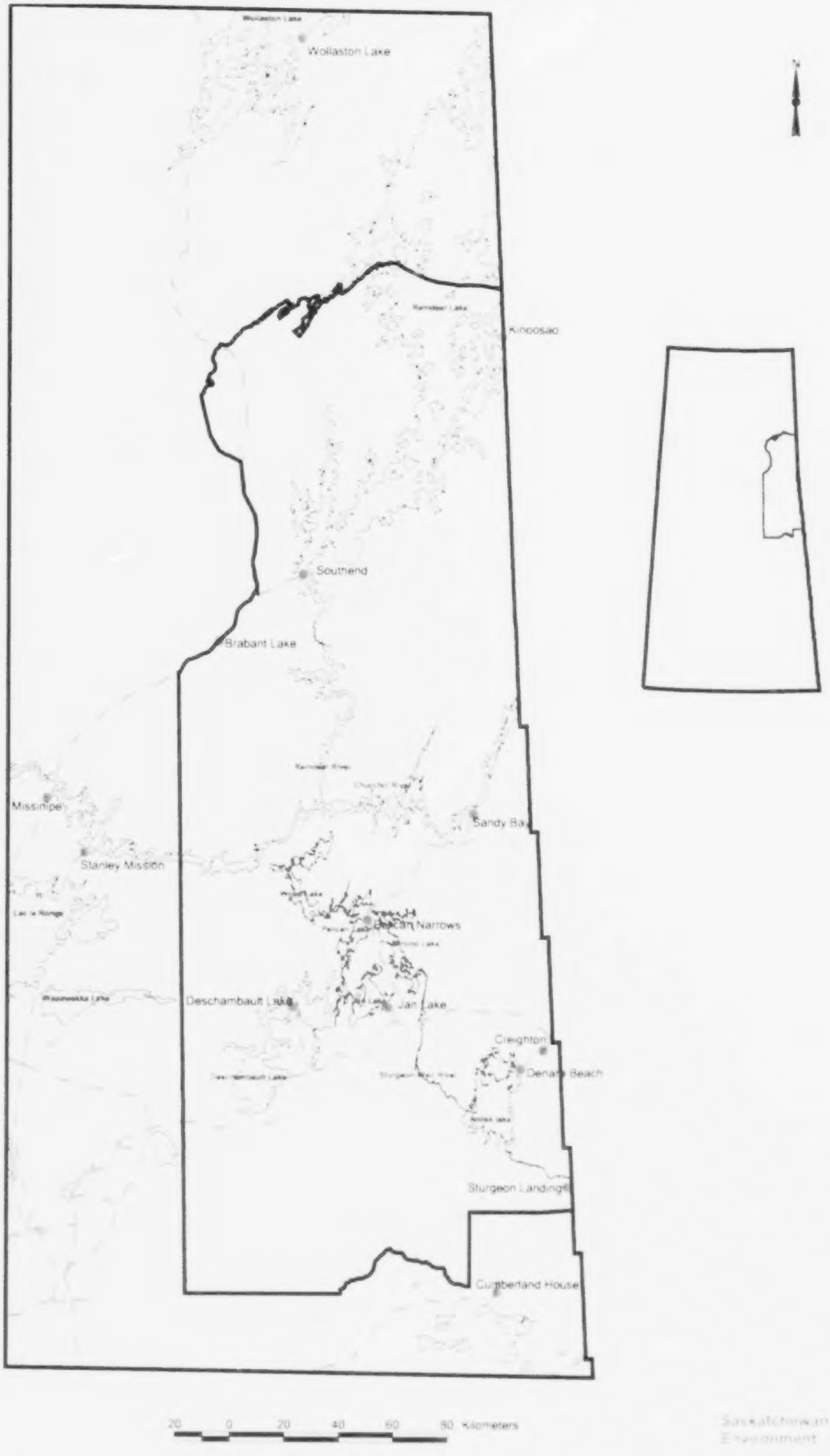
Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
Wollaston Lake
N
Reindeer Lake
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
Reindeer River
Churchill River
Missinipe
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Lac la Ronge
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon-Weir River
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 1-1

Amisk-Atik Planning Area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Churchill River
Missinipe
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Lac la Ronge
Pelican Narrows
Wapawekka Lake
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Deschambault Lake
Sturgeon-Weir River
Amisk Lake
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20
0
20
40
60
80
Kilometers
Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 1-1

1.2 Background Document Format

This Background Document has been organized according to the following sections:

> **Chapter 1:** As an introductory section, Chapter 1 is intended to provide a general overview of both the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan and this Background Document. This chapter also provides a brief discussion of the relationship of integrated land use planning to forest economic development initiatives. An introduction is also provided to the public involvement process used to assist in the development of the land use plan.
>
> **Chapter 2:** This chapter provides a general description of the land and renewable and nonrenewable resources found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. A brief overview is provided of the forest, vegetation, fish and wildlife, geological, water, and archaeological resources that characterize the area. The regional climate and provincial recreation sites and other designated areas in the planning area are also highlighted.
>
> **Chapter 3:** The values and uses of the various resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area are discussed in Chapter 3.
>
> **Chapter 4:** This chapter presents the population dynamics and natural history of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.
>
> **Chapter 5:** An overview of the provincial and federal government departments and agencies responsible for natural resource management and land use in the planning area is presented in Chapter 5.
>
> **Chapter 6:** This final chapter provides a detailed description of the planning and public involvement processes followed to assist in the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Land Use Plan.

1.3 The Purpose of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

The intent of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan is to provide general direction for the management of the provincial Crown lands and resources found within the boundaries of the planning area. This land use plan does not have any authority to manage the land and resources that are privately owned or that are found in northern municipal communities and First Nations Reserves situated within the Amisk-Atik area.

The integrated land use plan for the Amisk-Atik area is based on the principles of integrated resource management. Accordingly, planning decisions have been made by looking at the health of the whole ecosystem and its various components--soil, water, plants, animals, and humans--to meet a variety of environmental, social, and economic objectives. Integrated resource management allows for a broad range of resource uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be informed and involved in management planning. Economic development opportunities tied to sustainable resource use are key elements of proposed management strategies and recommendations.

As a coordinating document, the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will provide a framework for land and resource management in the planning area. The plan will also provide direction for such management concerns as public involvement, options for resolving conflict among resource users, and the development of strategies for monitoring and evaluating the plan's effectiveness.

1.4 Forest Economic Development

The land use planning process is one of a number of inter-related processes that have been incorporated into Saskatchewan's Forest Economic Development initiative--a cooperative endeavour between the Province and various municipal, Métis, and First Nations communities to facilitate the development of forest harvesting operations in various locations throughout the province. In the Northern Administration District, these forestry activities are being encouraged to assist in the enhancement of the social and economic development of the north.

The other processes that play key roles in the Forest Economic Development activities and that influence the management of land and resources in the Amisk-Atik planning area include the development and implementation of a Forest Management Agreement, Forest Management Plans, and an Environmental Impact Assessment. The strategies presented in the Integrated Forest Land Use Plan must also be developed to allow for cooperative and complementary management between provincial Crown land and resources and the land and resources found within the boundaries of northern municipal and First Nations communities. As such, the land use plan has a strong relationship to municipal and Reserve land use plans and zoning by-laws. While all of these processes are inter-related and are conducted in a coordinated fashion, the integrated forest land use plan provides the umbrella for SE's management of provincial Crown land and natural resources in the planning area. As such, this land use plan is a coordinating document. Figure 1-2 highlights the relationships that exist between the land use planning process and these other processes.

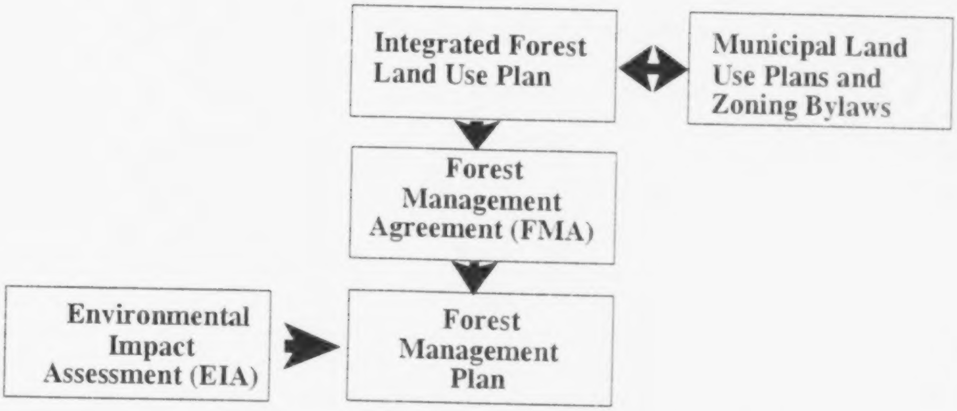

Integrated Forest Land Use Plan
Municipal Land Use Plans and Zoning Bylaws
Forest Management Agreement (FMA)
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
Forest Management Plan

Figure 1-2. Existing and proposed processes for land management and development activities in the Amisk-Atik planning area

The Forest Management Agreement (FMA), which will be negotiated by Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the future partnership formed by the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and a selected forest industry partner (hereinafter called "the Forest Company"), will include terms that will allow the forest company to harvest and manage timber resources in the planning area. The land use management plan will identify those areas where timber harvesting will be allowed and where it will not be allowed. Such land use decisions will assist in determining harvest levels and allocations specified in the FMA.

One of the prerequisites of the FMA will be the development of a twenty-year forest management plan and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) by the forest company. The forest management plan provides long term strategic direction. Annual and five year operating plans will provide harvest and forest renewal plans for the areas the partnership has access to under terms of the FMA. The integrated forest land use management plan will provide direction for development of the twenty year forest plan. For example, the land use management plan will identify actions that industry will have to take as part of the twenty year plan, such as adapting harvesting methods in different areas to accommodate other resource users and ensuring a healthy forest ecosystem.

Sustainable forest management is recognized as a requirement for economic development. Any licensee would be required to coordinate forest management activities within the context of the Saskatchewan Forest Management Policy Framework and the associated land use management plan and manage the forest according to the concepts of sustainable development.

In order to protect the forest ecosystem, the twenty-year forest management plan will be subject to an EIA that will identify the potential impacts of forestry development on the environment and the area's natural and cultural resources. The Forestry Company will be required to address these impacts.

Due to the time and financial resources required to complete a twenty year plan, SE agreed to consider issuing a five-year Term Supply Licence (TSL) to allow the Forest Company to carry out various harvesting activities and begin developing their operations. In 1999, the PBCN Forest Company prepared operating ground rules and a 5-year harvesting plan for the purpose of acquiring a five year TSL. The Forest Company was also required to do an environmental impact assessment (EIS) on the proposed TSL. A government technical review and a 60-day public review process were completed, however the TSL was not finalized at that time. SE supports PBCN efforts to obtain a Forest Management Agreement for the area.

1.5 Public Involvement

An integral component of the land use planning process was the involvement of the public in the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Land Use Plan. SE worked cooperatively with representatives of the northern municipal and PBCN communities found in the planning area to develop the guidelines that form the basis of the Management Plan. The mining and forestry industries and various non-government groups also participated in this process.

CHAPTER 2: THE LAND AND RESOURCES OF THE AMISK-ATIK PLANNING AREA

The purpose of this chapter is to provide a general description of the land and renewable and nonrenewable resources found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. A brief overview is provided of the forest, vegetation, fish and wildlife, geological, water, and archaeological resources that characterize the area. The regional climate and provincial recreation sites and other designated areas found in Amisk-Atik are also highlighted.

2.1 Forest Ecology

The Amisk-Atik Planning Area covers approximately 44,000 square kilometres (or 4.4 million hectares), and falls within two ecoregions: (1) the Mid Boreal Lowlands in the Boreal Plain Ecozone; and (2) the Churchill River Uplands in the Boreal Shield Ecozone (See Figure 2-1).

The **Mid Boreal Lowlands Ecoregion** is a relatively flat, low-lying ecoregion dominated by wetlands. Landscape areas in the planning area include Mossy River Plain, Namew Lake Upland, and Saskatchewan Delta. The area is characterized by medium to tall closed stands of trembling aspen and balsam poplar, with white spruce, black spruce, and balsam fir increasing in dominance in older stands. Stands of ostrich fern grow on some wetter marshy spots in these rich forest sites. Poorly drained depressions are dominated by stunted black spruce with peat moss, dwarf birch, Labrador tea, and sedges.

The **Churchill River Upland Ecoregion** has topography typical of the Precambrian Shield, characterized by hundreds of small, clear lakes with broken shorelines. Landscape areas in the planning area include Foster Upland, Reindeer Lake Plain, Macoun Lake Plain, Sisipuk Plain, Flin Flon Plain, and Reed Lake Plain. The area is dominated by black spruce with significant stands of jack pine on dry sand plains, mixed wood forests, peat lands (treed and open bogs, and fens), and wetlands. As fire is the dominant disturbance factor in the region, it is common to see a mosaic of forest types in many successional stages across the landscape.

2.2 Vegetation

The **Mid-Boreal Lowland Ecoregion** has the most diverse flora of any ecoregion in the province. Appendix 11 provides a listing of common vegetation found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. The climate favours frost-hardy evergreen species. Black spruce would dominate the vegetation on all sites if all disruptive forces (e.g., fires and floods) were eliminated. Mixedwood forests occur under well and imperfectly drained conditions, where white spruce is mixed with trembling aspen and balsam poplar. There are five major vegetation associations in the eco-region — peat lands, black spruce forest, mixed wood forest, jack pine forest, and boreal wetlands. A large percentage of the region is comprised of cold, wet peat lands, where the peat ranges in depth from 2-4 meters.

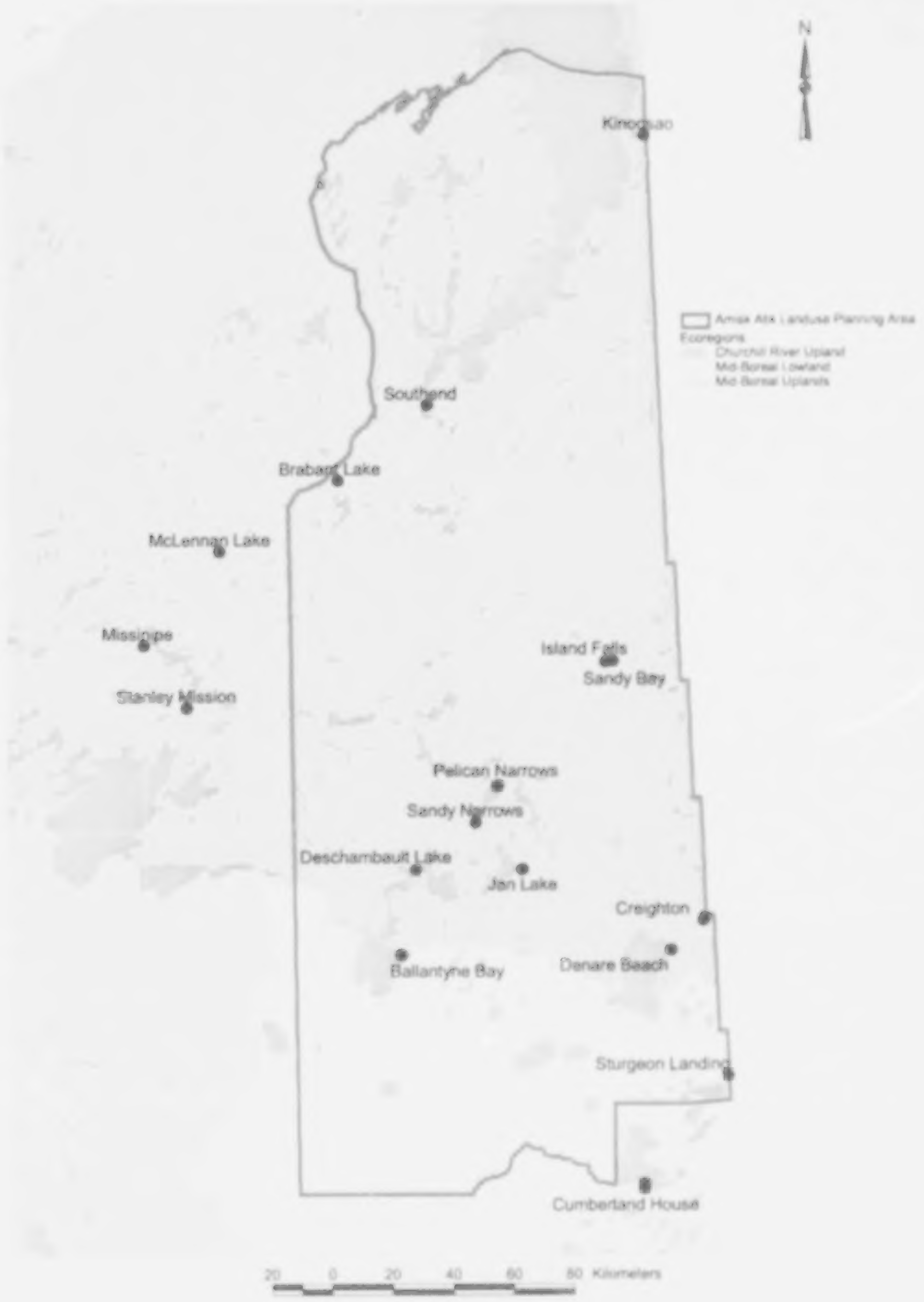
On sites dominated by jack pine, the forest canopy is semi-open and may include occasional white birch and black spruce. The understory vegetation is sparse and low growing. Stemless lady slipper, fireweed, harebell, tall lung wort, and pink and yellow corydalis are common flowering herb associations, beneath which grow an abundance of surface lichens, mosses, juniper, bearberry, and ground cranberry. Above grow Labrador tea, blueberry, and thinly scattered alder shrubs.

On sites dominated by black spruce, the forest canopy is semi-open to closed, and may include occasional white birch, black poplar, trembling aspen, jack pine, and tamarack. The understory vegetation is also sparse and low growing. Wintergreen and star flower are common flowering herb associations, beneath which grow feather and sphagnum mosses and dry-ground cranberry. Wetter conditions produce bog cranberry and cloud berry, above and around which grow Labrador tea, horse tail, ground pine, ground cedar, and occasional grasses. Wetter sites produce scattered willows, abundant sedges, and cotton grass.

On sites dominated by white spruce, the forest canopy is semi-closed to closed, and may include scattered trembling aspen at various heights, balsam fir, and black spruce. The understory vegetation is abundant and in several layers. Wood violet, bunchberry, tall lung wort, dewberry, prickly rose, asters, twin flower, baneberry, black currant, and raspberry are common flowering herb associations. Beneath the surface are leaf and needle duff, occasional feather and pin-cushion mosses, while above grow occasional stands of tall Labrador tea, sarsaparilla, and a variety of shrubs including willows, alder, twining honey suckle, red-osier dogwood, and low bush cranberry.

On sites dominated by tamarack, the forest canopy is open, and may include black spruce and occasional stunted white birch. The understory vegetation is sparse and low growing. Bog laurel, leatherleaf, and bog cranberry are common flowering herb associations. Prevalent beneath, grows an abundance of water soaked fen mosses, occasional clumps and floating mats of sphagnum, pitcher plants, and occasionally surface lichens on the moss. Above and around grow buck- bean, cotton-grass, and a variety of emergent sedges. Bog birch and occasional willows are the predominant shrubs.

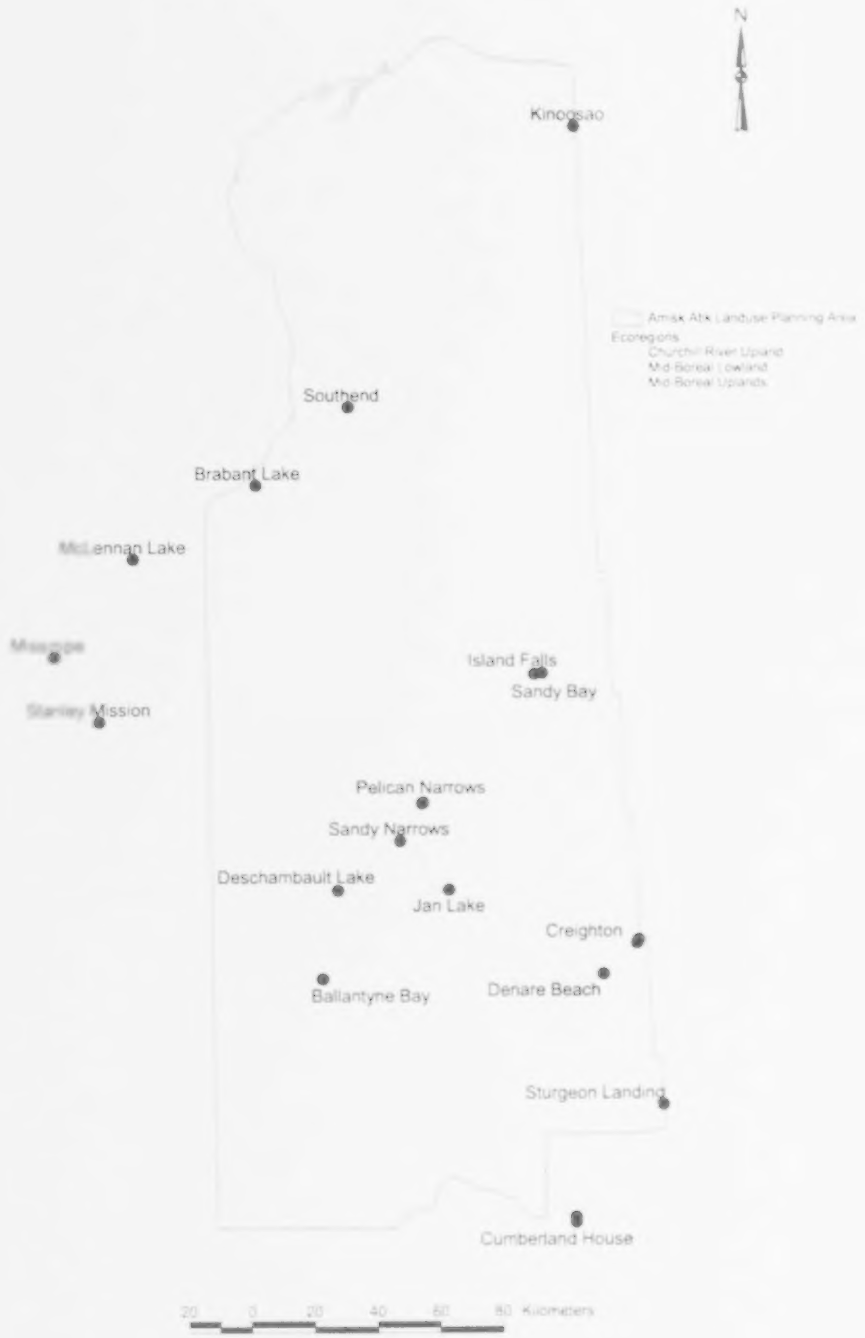
Natural Ecoregion Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


N
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
McLennan Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Island Falls
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Sandy Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Ballantyne Bay
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
Amisk Atik Landuse Planning Area
Ecoregions
Churchill River Upland
Mid-Boreal Lowland
Mid-Boreal Uplands
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 2-1

Natural Ecoregion Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area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Amisk Atik Landuse Planning Area
Ecoregions
Churchill River Upland
Mid-Boreal Lowland
Mid-Boreal Uplands
Southend
Brabant Lake
McLennan Lake
Missinipe
Island Falls
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Pelican Narrows
Sandy Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Ballantyne Bay
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Figure 2-1

Riparian sites dominated by willow tend to be along water courses in flood plains. Alder is also found associated with willow and sedges which dominate the understory. A variety of plants including wild mint, water parsnip, and several of those described above encroach along the margins of these sites depending on the type of forest stands adjacent to them.

In the **Churchill River Upland Ecoregion** there are six vegetation associations--black spruce forest, jack pine forest, white spruce forest, mixed wood forest, peat lands, and wetlands. The bedrock outcrops commonly have thinly scattered black spruce or jack pine growing in rock crevices. These areas usually have a sparse understory of lichens and club mosses, interspersed with ground juniper and other shrubs, herbs, and various ferns. There are very few areas of unvegetated rock outcrops, although the shady locations typically have fewer species. Maps of forest cover are presented in Figure 2-2a for cover types south of the Churchill River and in Figure 2-2b for cover types north of the Churchill.

2.3 Fish Resources

In the Churchill River Upland Region, fish species include lake trout, lake whitefish, northern pike, walleye, perch, common sucker, burbot, and goldeye. (Appendix 12 provides a listing of common fish species found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.)

Northern pike, walleye, and lake whitefish are the economically valuable fish found in the Mid-Boreal Lowland Ecoregion. Other fish species found in this area are common suckers, long nose suckers, burbot, yellow perch, cisco, sauger, and a variety of small minnow species. Historically, there were lake sturgeon in the rivers flowing into the Cumberland Delta and in the lakes of the Churchill River system. Efforts are currently underway by Saskatchewan Environment (SE) to manage and protect these endangered lake sturgeon populations through reductions in angling and commercial limits, habitat enhancement and restoration, and stocking.

Fish populations in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area are primarily lake based and exhibit the reduced growth rates typically found in the clear, cold oligotrophic lakes of the Pre-Cambrian Shield. The Sturgeon-weir, Churchill, Reindeer, and Wathaman Rivers are some of the streams where populations of the larger fish species occur year round. These rivers and numerous smaller streams provide critical spawning habitat and migration channels for northern pike, walleye, and suckers. Angling closures on some streams and portions of lakes during spring spawning season have been established, such as those implemented on Puskwakau River and Deschambault Lake, and are effective protection mechanisms.

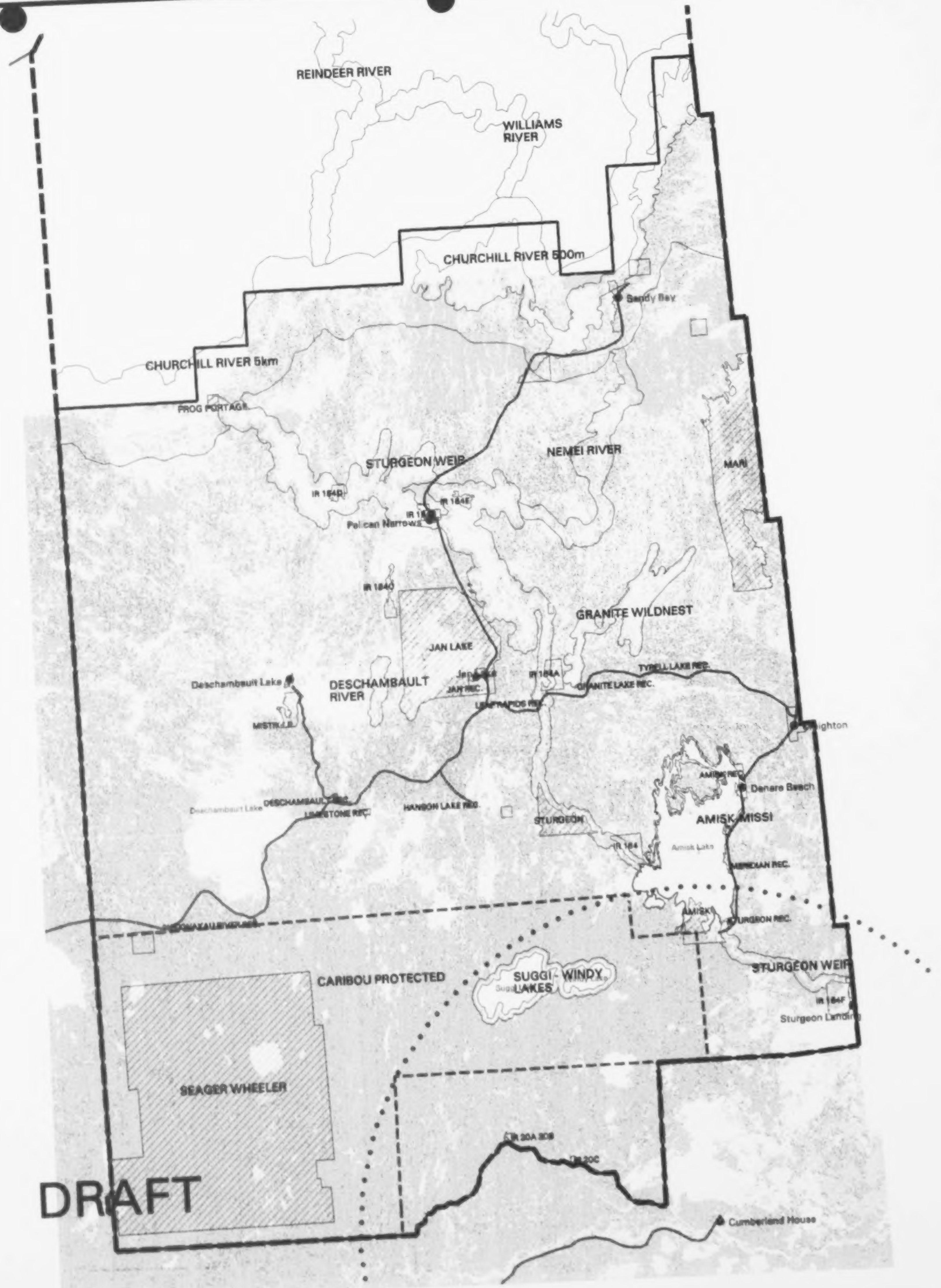
Amisk, Deschambault, Jan, Pelican, and Reindeer Lakes provide the basis for the most significant recreational, commercial fishing, and outfitting activities in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. Other lakes with significant fisheries include Hanson, Namew, Mirond, Wood, Manawan, and a series of lakes which form the Churchill River system such as Iskwatam, Wapumon, Wintego, Pit, Pikoo, and Reeds Lakes. Many of the lakes in this planning area have at least one type of fishery and many have two or more. The fish resources of this area are very important to local residents because they are used for a source of income, traditional purposes (eg. food, ceremonies), and recreation. Non-residents also utilize this area's fish resources for recreational purposes.

Walleye and northern pike are the primary sport fish species targeted by anglers and outfitting clientele, although some do fish for lake trout that occur naturally in a few lakes in this area. There are also several waters within the Amisk-Atik Planning Area which are stocked to enhance angling opportunities. Rainbow trout fingerlings are stocked in McRobbie, Mid, Moise, Negan and Nistum Lakes every 2 years. Negan Lake is also stocked with brook trout. Smallmouth bass were also introduced into Konuto Lake in 1998 in an effort to establish a viable bass fishery that would further diversify angling opportunities in the area. SE has planned a second stocking of smallmouth bass in 2000, pending availability of fingerlings from North Dakota. Due to the experimental nature of this stocking, Konuto Lake will remain closed to all types of fishing for 5 years.

2.4 Wildlife Resources

2.4.1 Mammals

Various mammal species inhabit both the upland and lowland areas found within the Amisk-Atik boundaries (See Appendix 13). During the summer months, moose are found in and close to water, while in the winter, these mammals' habitat requirements (e.g., a food supply of woody browse) are met by inhabiting riparian areas and upland mixed forest. Woodland caribou, snowshoe hare, weasel, fisher, wolverine, black bear, wolf, coyote, fox, lynx, and pygmy shrew also can be found in both upland and lowland habitats. Various species in this group are sensitive to habitat disturbance. Woodland caribou, which rely on the lichen growth in upland jack pine and black spruce forests as a critical source of winter food, can have their seasonal movement easily disrupted by such manmade disturbances as the construction of barriers. Habitat disturbance can also impact wolves that require remote and undisturbed den and pup-rearing sites allowing easy digging in early spring when most of the ground is still frozen. Other species sensitive to disturbance include wolverine due to naturally low population densities and, also, lynx, due to the requirement of seclusion for rearing of young and a local population level that has been depressed for several years.


REINDEER RIVER
WILLIAMS RIVER
CHURCHILL RIVER 500m
CHURCHILL RIVER 5km
Sandy Bay
FROG PORTAGE
STURGEON WEIR
NEMEI RIVER
MARI
IR 184D
IR 184E
IR 184
Pelican Narrows
IR 184C
GRANITE WILDNEST
JAN LAKE
Jan Lake
JAN REC.
DESCHAMBAULT RIVER
Deschambault Lake
MISTIK L.P.
IR 184A
TYRELL LAKE REC.
GRANITE LAKE REC.
LEAF RAPIDS REC.
Creighton
AMISK REC.
Denare Beach
AMISK-MISSI
Amisk Lake
MERIDIAN REC.
DESCHAMBAULT REC.
LIMESTONE REC.
HANSON LAKE REC.
STURGEON
IR 184
AMISK
STURGEON REC.
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
Sturgeon Landing
CARIBOU PROTECTED
SUGGI - WINDY LAKES
SEAGER WHEELER
IR 20A 20B
IR 20C
Cumberland House
DRAFT

Scale 1 : 750,000

Figure 2-2a

AMISK - ATIK FOREST COVER SOUTH OF THE CHURCHILL

LEGEND

▒ NON-MERCHANTABLE (Under 30 FEET)
☐ MERCHANTABLE (Over 30 FEET)
▒ OTHER
☐ WATER
☐ PROTECTED ZONES
▨ SENSITIVE MANAGEMENT ZONES
▚ CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
⁘ CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Prepared by:
SERM
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 14 Aug 01

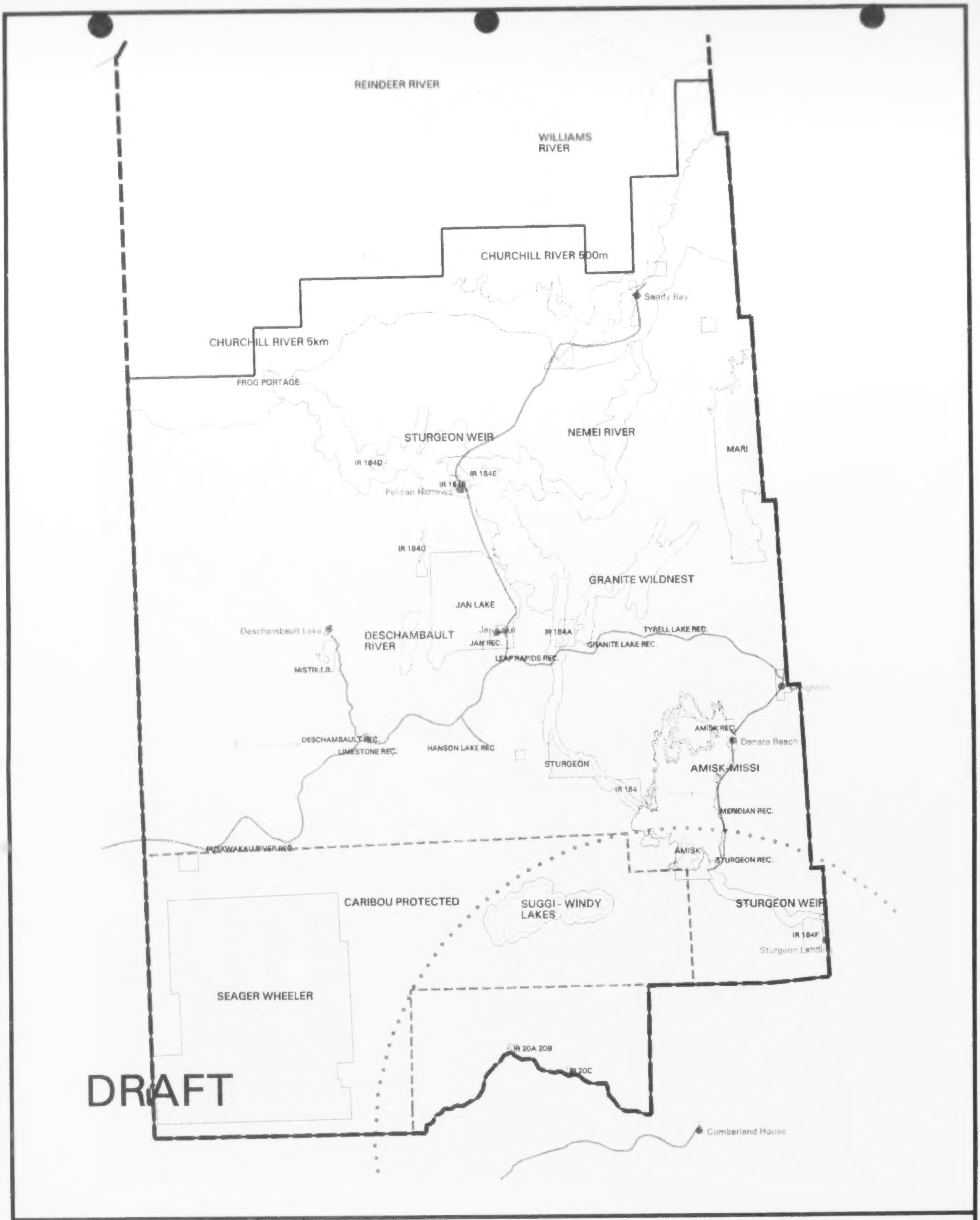

REINDEER RIVER
WILLIAMS RIVER
CHURCHILL RIVER 500m
Sandy Bay
CHURCHILL RIVER 5km
FROG PORTAGE
STURGEON WEIR
NEMEI RIVER
MARI
IR 184D
IR 184E
IR 184B
Pelican Narrows
IR 1840
GRANITE WILDNEST
JAN LAKE
Deschambault Lake
DESCHAMBAULT RIVER
Jan Lake
JAN REC.
IR 184A
TYRELL LAKE REC.
GRANITE LAKE REC.
LEAF RAPIDS REC.
MISTIK I.R.
Creighton
AMISK REC.
Denare Beach
DESCHAMBAULT REC.
LIMESTONE REC.
HANSON LAKE REC
STURGEON
AMISK-MISSI
IR 184
MERIDIAN REC.
PUSKWAKAU RIVER REC.
AMISK
STURGEON REC.
CARIBOU PROTECTED
SUGGI - WINDY LAKES
STURGEON WEIR
IR 184F
Sturgeon Landing
SEAGER WHEELER
IR 20A 20B
IR 20C
DRAFT
Cumberland House

Figure 2-2a

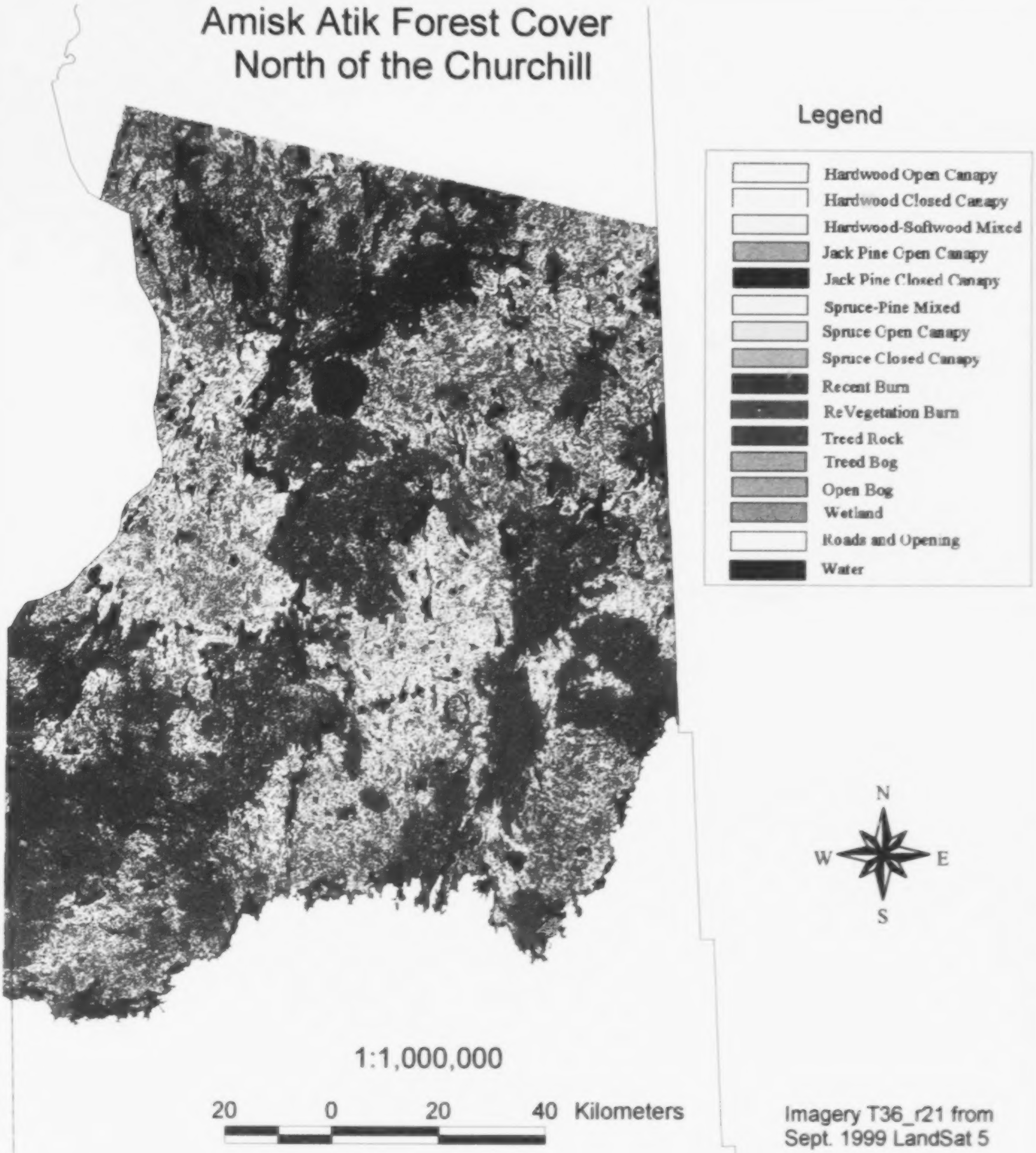
AMISK - ATIK FOREST COVER SOUTH OF THE CHURCHILL

LEGEND

Scale 1 : 750,000

NON-MERCHANTABLE (Under 30 FEET)
MERCHANTABLE (Over 30 FEET)
OTHER
WATER
PROTECTED ZONES
SENSITIVE MANAGEMENT ZONES
CARIBOU PROTECTED AREA
CUMBERLAND HOUSE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE

Prepared by:
SERM
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 14 Aug 01



Amisk Atik Forest Cover
North of the Churchill

Legend
Hardwood Open Canapy
Hardwood Closed Canapy
Hardwood-Softwood Mixed
Jack Pine Open Canapy
Jack Pine Closed Canapy
Spruce-Pine Mixed
Spruce Open Canapy
Spruce Closed Canapy
Recent Burn
ReVegetation Burn
Treed Rock
Treed Bog
Open Bog
Wetland
Roads and Opening
Water
N
W
E
S
1:1,000,000
20
0
20
40
Kilometers

Imagery T36_r21 from
Sept. 1999 LandSat 5

Classified by SRC

Mapped by FEB, SERM
May 30, 2000

Figure 2-2b

Mammals in the planning area that are generally considered to be upland species include white-tailed deer, black bear, porcupine, marten, woodchuck, red squirrel, northern flying squirrel, chipmunk, red-backed vole, deer mice, and a variety of bat species. A number of these species are sensitive to disturbance. For example, the marten population has been severely depressed over the past fifty years. In addition, several species of bats, most of which roost in colonies of 3 or more, and that may be dependent on hollows in trees of specific size and height, are also sensitive to disturbance. Keen myotis and big brown bat hibernate in the north, in colonies located in rock crevices and hollows in large trees. Disturbance of a site can affect or impact many animals at once.

Mammals in the planning area that are generally considered to be lowland species include woodland caribou, mink, and arctic shrew. Aquatic species include beaver, muskrat, otter, and northern water shrew. Species in this group sensitive to disturbance include the woodland caribou that occurs at naturally low population densities and low productivity levels. The woodland caribou's main adaptation to disturbance is to emigrate from a disturbed area. Such habitat that is suddenly and dramatically disturbed may become unsuitable for woodland caribou for very long periods of time.

2.4.2 Birds

Upland habitats in the planning area are occupied by a variety of cavity nesting birds that use dead tree snags for hollowing out nest sites. Suitable nesting snags are uncommon and are usually found in mature and over-mature mixed forest stands. Accordingly, the availability of such nesting sites can be affected by logging. Species requiring these nesting sites in mature forests are therefore sensitive to disturbance and include such year round residents as black capped and boreal chickadees, northern three-toed woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers, boreal owls, barred owls, northern hawk owls, and such seasonal breeding residents as red-breasted nuthatches, northern flickers, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, hairy and downy woodpeckers, tree swallows, purple martens, belted king fishers, common goldeneye, bufflehead, and common and hooded mergansers.

Ground nesting species that are found in upland habitats and that are sensitive to surface disturbance include spruce and ruffed grouse, nighthawks, bank swallows, hermit thrushes, yellow bellied flycatchers, Tennessee, orange-crowned, Nashville, and black and white warblers, oven birds, vesper and white throated sparrows, and dark-eyed juncos.

A number of bird species require tall conifers and/or conifer dominant stands for critical nesting habitat and, as such, are sensitive to disturbances created by logging activities. These species include three-toed and black-backed woodpeckers, boreal chickadees, red-breasted nuthatches, ruby-crowned and golden crowned kinglets, bohemian waxwings, magnolia/cape may/bay breasted and black-pole warblers, western tanagers, pine grosbeaks, purple finches, red and white-winged crossbills, and pine siskins.

Wetlands within the planning area form important breeding habitat for a number of species including sedge and marsh wrens, Connecticut and palm warblers, and Savannah/Le Conte's and Lincoln sparrows. Wetland species most sensitive to drainage, water level manipulation, and surface disturbance include such ground nesting species as sand hill cranes, short-billed dowitchers, ring-necked duck, palm and Connecticut warblers, Savannah/Le Contes and Lincoln sparrows.

A number of species select riparian zones for breeding habitat. The limited extent and distribution of such habitat renders a variety of species sensitive to disturbance of riparian zones. Such species include bald eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, solitary sandpipers, yellow/Wilsons and Canada warblers, northern water thrushes, common yellowthroats, rose-breasted grosbeaks, swamp sparrow, and red-winged, yellow headed, and rusty blackbirds.

The planning area includes bird species whose provincial range is a narrow band or corridor. The impact of a disturbances such as loss of habitat can very quickly become critical. Breeding populations across Canada can become fragmented by loss of habitat in these areas. Affected species barred owls, Caspian terns, Cape May and black-throated green warblers, pine grosbeaks, purple finches, and red and white winged crossbills.

Golden eagles are sensitive to disturbance because their nesting requirements and prey availability within the planning area are so restrictive that they exist at very low numbers. See Appendix 14 for a list of common bird species.

2.4.3 Amphibians and Reptiles

Species of amphibians and reptiles found in the Amisk-Atik planning area include wood, boreal chorus, and leopard frogs, and red-sided garter snakes. All frog species are considered sensitive to disturbance, especially when water chemistry deteriorates. The leopard frog is classed as a vulnerable species due to habitat loss and alteration across North America. No known snake hibernacula (i.e., winter dens) can be identified at this time. Local knowledge could provide valuable information about the location of these hibernation sites. Hillsides exposed to the sun with ease of burrowing would be possible locations.

2.4.4 Other Animal Life

The planning area is also inhabited by a variety of invertebrates that are too numerous to mention, some of which may be sensitive to disturbance. A naturally occurring bacteria that is being sprayed to control spruce budworm larvae in the planning area, also kills the larvae of many other moths and butterflies. The emerging use of herbicides to control unwanted vegetation along corridors and in agriculture plots may also kill important soil invertebrates. The significance of this is unknown at this time and untested on the fragile surface humus found in the planning area.

Greater interest in the salvage logging of recent burns has implications for a variety of invertebrates as well as bird and mammal species that prey upon them. For example, bark beetles and carpenter ants are the target of experimental control programs. Their larvae form important food sources for other insect, birds and mammals.

2.5 Fire

Fire has been a natural part of forest ecosystems for thousand of years and was the major agent of change influencing vegetation distribution, composition and structure. Fires were allowed to burn freely before large scale settlement occurred on the northern reaches of the prairies and along the forest fringe. Jack pine, black spruce and aspen are prime examples of species dependent upon fire for renewal.

Fire regimes are the occurrence of fires over time and space. They are characterized by fire intensity, fire sizes, number of fires and how fast they return in a given area over a given time period. The fire regime in the boreal forest can be described as very large, high intensity stand replacing crown fires that occur every 50 -100 years.

Fire is important for forest health and biodiversity. Boreal forests are not static and efforts to maintain the forest in a given state without fire is not realistic. Both large and small fires increase diversity of vegetation structure and composition. Maintaining this natural vegetation mosaic through fire will assist in maintaining the diversity of wildlife habitats. Even with re-occurrent large fires, the boreal forest in a broader sense is very stable. It is very resilient and recovers from these major fires through natural successional pathways.

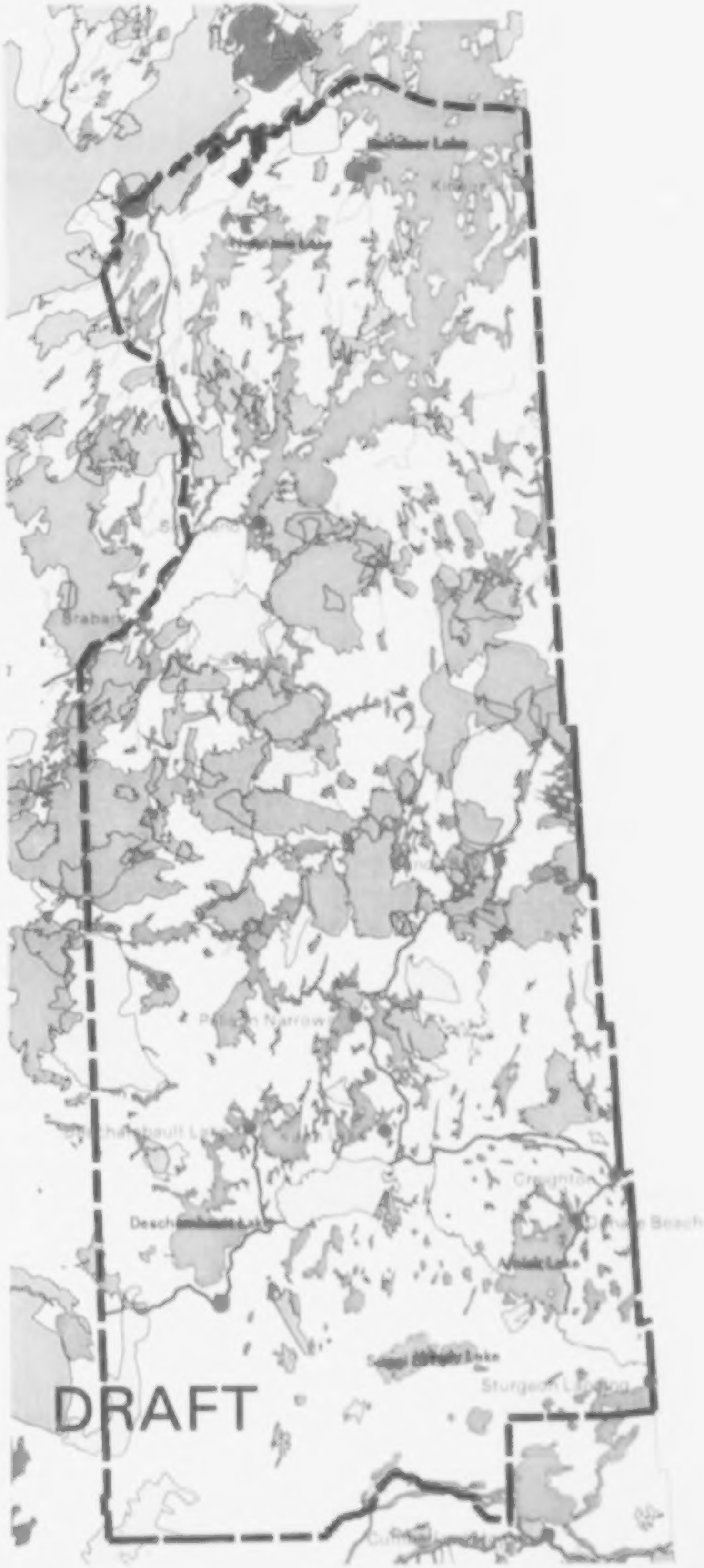
It is difficult to determine how much fire should be allowed to help maintain healthy ecosystems. One of the questions that needs to be addressed is how much fire has there been in natural regimes. This is the basis of fire history studies. Since fire will be present on forested landscapes regardless of levels of forest protection, a better understanding of its role in forest ecosystem development will help minimize negative impacts caused by interruption of fire regimes.

The use of our forest and northern development has prompted early fire suppression to protect people and natural resources. This has had a major impact on fire regimes in the boreal forest, reducing the area burned. In some regions of the forest, harvesting affects more area than fires.

A well planned assessment of fire patterns and regimes is needed for well planned management of fire in forest ecosystems. This will help determine how suppression, which has caused a decline in area burned, and harvesting, which has increased, can be used together to help maintain healthy and sustainable forests. However, since this information is limited it should not impede progress and investigation of new techniques.

Ecological benefit from fire is often masked since fire in high use areas results in reporting of only the significant negative losses. This reporting tendency coupled with Saskatchewan full suppression history has primed the public to resist acceptance of fire as a tool for beneficial purposes.

Fire impact on forest resources is somewhat predicable. Figure 2-3 illustrates the known extent of fire over the last 50 years in the province. These recorded observations allow us to describe some of the current fire regime characteristics for an area and provide information on impacts to the forest resource.



AMISK - ATIK FIRE HISTORY

LEGEND

▨ 1945 - 1949
☐ 1950 - 1959
☐ 1960 - 1969
■ 1970 - 1979
▨ 1980 - 1989
▨ 1990 - 1999

Digital Fire Boundary Sources

Fish & Wildlife Branch, SERM
1945-1976
1977-1996
(no large fires in 1997)

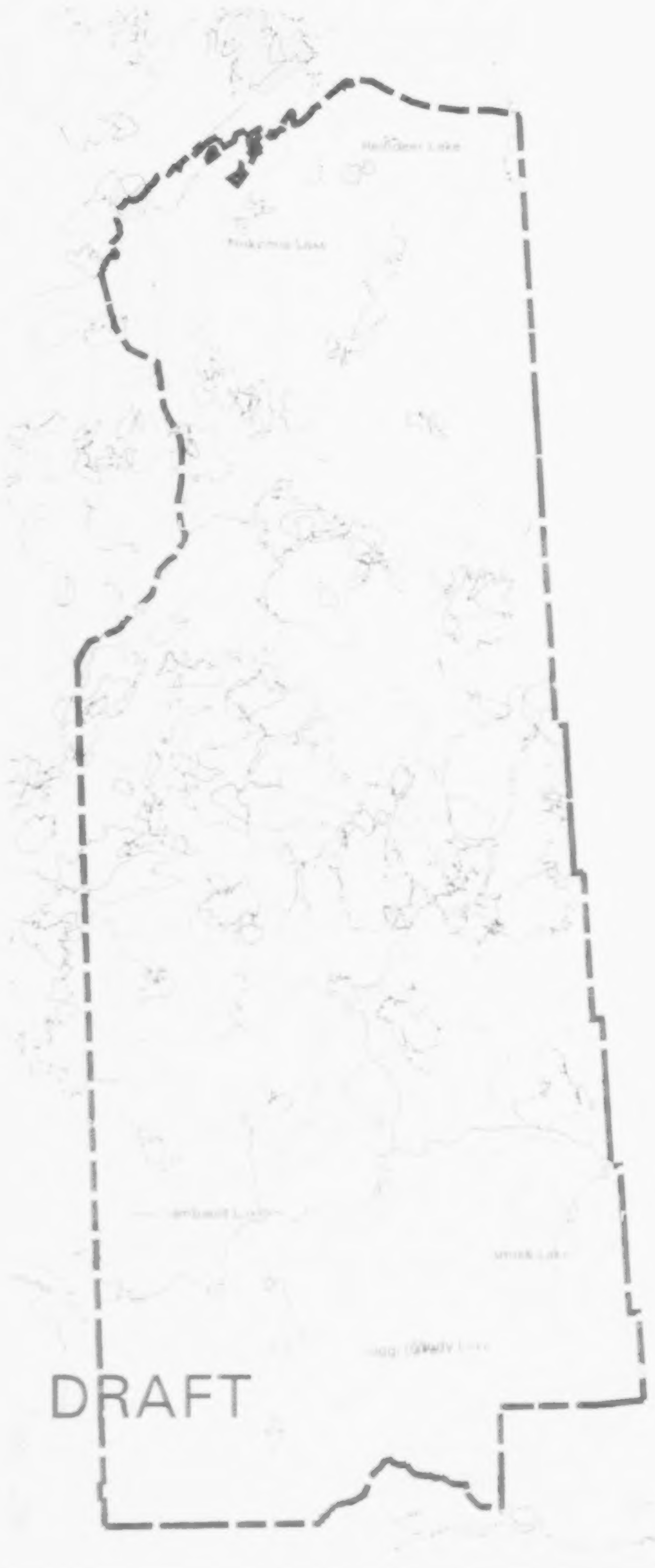
Forest Ecosystems Branch, SERM
1972-1976
1995 - present

Only fires greater than 1,000 hectares are depicted.

Linework with fires depict repeat burns, with the most recent fires plotted last.

Figure 2-3

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 26 Mar 03



AMISK - ATIK FIRE HISTORY

LEGEND

1945 - 1949

1950 - 1959

1960 - 1969

1970 - 1979

1980 - 1989

1990 - 1999

Digital Fire Boundary Sources

Fish & Wildlife Branch, SERM
1945-1976
1977-1986
(no large fires in 1987)

Forest Ecosystems Branch, SERM
1972-1976
1995 - present

Only fires greater than 1,000 hectares are depicted.

Linework with fires depict repeat burns, with the most recent fires plotted last.

Figure 2-3

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 28 Mar 03

Risk and uncertainty of fire losses and impacts in forest planning contribute to the desire to suppress fire. Forest management plans and decisions made at any given time assume a forest commodity or value will be realized several decades into the future. Large fluctuations in fire occurrences from year to year clearly illustrate the potential for fire to drastically change the structure of the forest in any year during a long term planning horizon. Forest and land managers desire to diminish uncertainty has promoted full fire exclusion.

The response from these factors over the last several decades in Saskatchewan has been to exclude fire as much as possible. Part of this full fire suppression response was also driven by attitudes shared by the public, forest stakeholders and some resource managers that fire is inherently negative and should be suppressed and eliminated as much as possible. This later message was also promoted in part by Smokey Bear and similar fire prevention campaigns.

Resource managers must also recognize that fire is an inseparable part of boreal ecosystems and understand how various fire management strategies can influence land planning outcomes. Just as important forest and land use managers will have an opportunity to influence fire management strategies for that land base. The key for promoting fire in resource and ecosystem management is that it should be driven by resource and landscape management objectives.

2.6 Geology

Most of the bedrock in the Amisk-Atik plan area consists of Precambrian-aged intrusive, sedimentary, and volcanic rocks of the Canadian Shield that have been metamorphosed and deformed. The southern margin of the area is directly underlain by limestone, dolomite, and sandstone of the younger, Phanerozoic-aged Western Canada Sedimentary Basin, that rests on the Precambrian basement rocks. The Phanerozoic/Precambrian margin trends irregularly through Amisk and Deschambault lakes.

Glacial deposits consisting of till, sand, and gravel commonly cover the bedrock in the area with a thickness ranging from less than a meter to several tens of meters.

The Snow Lake-Flin Flon-Hanson Lake volcanic belt, which trends approximately east to west through the southern part of the area, is important economically in the region. It hosts a large number of base metal deposits, six that have been mined in Saskatchewan. Significant gold deposits are also present.

2.7 Water

Water resources cover approximately between 10 and 20% of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area (See Figure 2-4). Numerous lakes and rivers are found throughout the planning area.

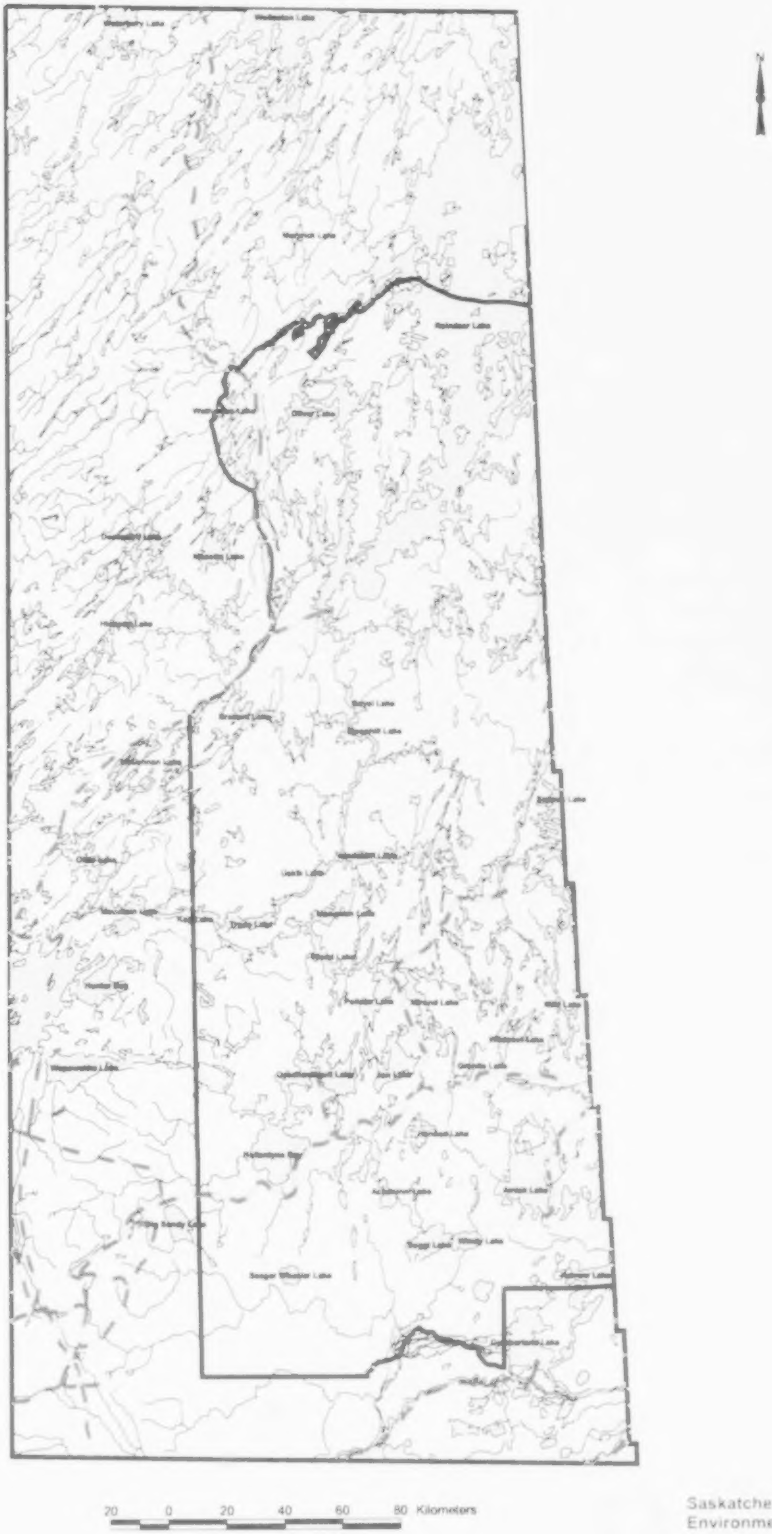
Lakes of the area are typically long and narrow and aligned to parallel the bedrock structure and the direction of glacial ice flow. Reindeer Lake in the northern end of the planning area is one of Saskatchewan's largest lakes. The south shore of Reindeer Lake forms much of the northern boundary of the planning area. Among the larger lakes in the area north of the Churchill River are Brabant, Kamuchawie, Pagato, Guilloux, Harriott, Laird, Wapus and Laurie. Major lakes south of the Churchill include Amisk, Suggi, Mirond and Jan. The three largest rivers in the planning area are the Sturgeon-weir, Reindeer, and Churchill Rivers. The Churchill River can be described as a series of lakes connected by rapids or fast flowing river reaches.

The planning area contains three watersheds: (1) the Churchill River above the junction of the Reindeer River; (2) the Churchill River below the junction of the Reindeer River; and (3) the Saskatchewan River below the forks (see Figure 2-5). The Churchill River drains water to the north and east from about 75% of the planning area. The Reindeer River drains Reindeer Lake south to the Churchill River. The Churchill, which has headwaters lying far to the west in eastern Alberta, flows east through the middle of the planning area to Manitoba. The water from the remaining 25% of the planning area drains south to the Saskatchewan River via the Sturgeon-weir River. When flow in the Churchill River is sufficiently high, water at Frog Portage on Trade Lake spills over into the Sturgeon-weir River system and flows southeast through Amisk Lake to the Saskatchewan River at Cumberland House.

The streams and lakes in the Amisk-Atik Area derive their water from the runoff originating in the interior of the area. As a result, rivers generally rise in the period of April to July from snow melt and recede to more or less a constant value from January to April. Even though peak flows tend to be less than in rivers fed from the mountains, floods still occur. Communities such as Southend and Sandy Bay have experienced flooding. Also, the lack of snowfall or rainfall can result in lower lake levels and stream flows to a point where community water supplies are adversely affected. This has been a problem at Creighton in recent years.

The Churchill River is dammed for power production at Island Falls on the eastern side of the planning area. The Reindeer River is controlled at the outlet of Reindeer Lake by the Whitesand Dam, which regulates flow in the river and storage in the lake to improve the efficiency of the Island Falls plant operation. Dams on Chicken Lake and Kipahigan Lake stabilize water levels and provide for better local transportation.

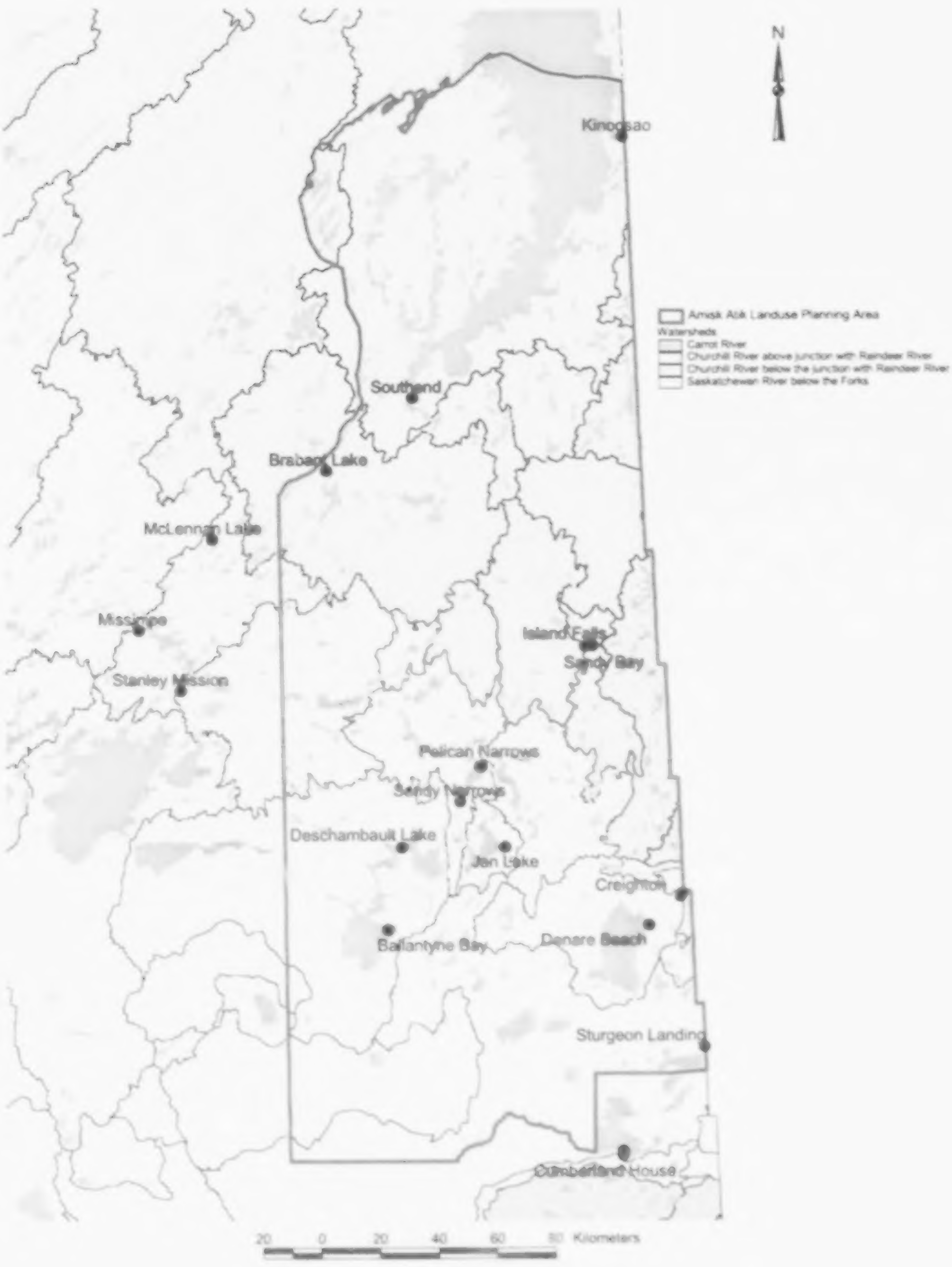
Water Resources in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


N
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 2-4

Gross Watershed Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


N
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
McLennan Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Island Falls
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Sandy Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Ballantyne Bay
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
Amisk Atik Landuse Planning Area
Watersheds
Carrot River
Churchill River above junction with Reindeer River
Churchill River below the junction with Reindeer River
Saskatchewan River below the Forks
20
0
20
40
60
80
Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 2-5

Gross Watershed Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

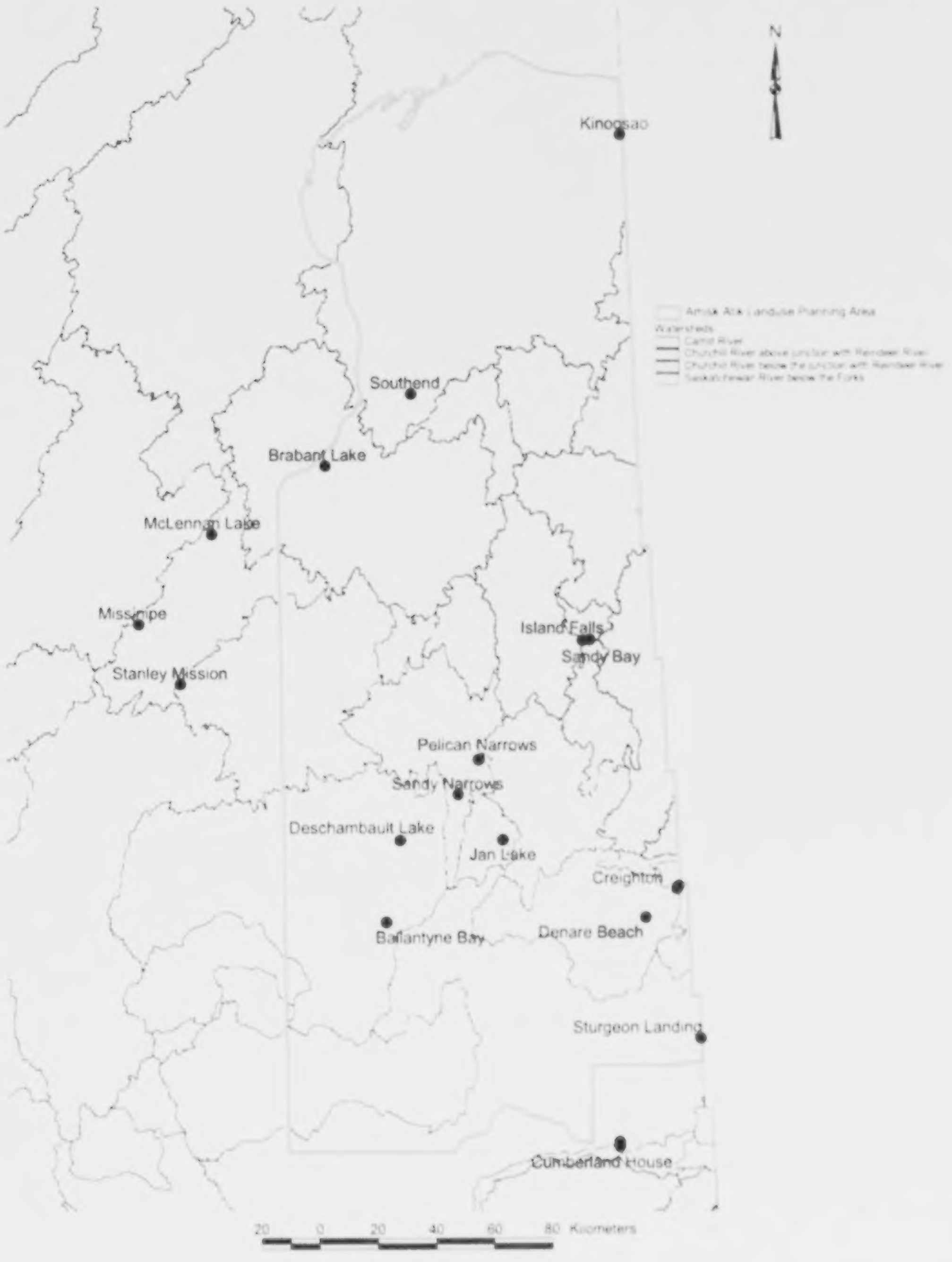

N
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
McLennan Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Island Falls
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Sandy Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Ballantyne Bay
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
Amisk Atik Landuse Planning Area
Watersheds
Carrot River
Churchill River above junction with Reindeer River
Churchill River below the junction with Reindeer River
Saskatchewan River below the Forks
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Figure 2-5

The large number of lakes in the area reduce the annual and seasonal variations in stream flows. This effect is particularly evident along the Churchill River. Mineral-rich water, numerous rapids, high flushing rates, and lack of lake stratification have created an aesthetically pleasing and complex aquatic environment that is conducive to hunting, fishing, trapping, water transportation, and tourism. The natural, recreational, and historical significance of the Churchill River has led to its candidacy as a Canadian Heritage River.

Seepage areas, fens, and bogs are common features of the Boreal Shield Ecozone. Marshes are generally absent in the region except along the Churchill River system, where deposited sediments have promoted the development of marshes in protected bays and backwater eddies. Away from the Churchill River, the most dense and varied wetland vegetation occurs in small, shallow lakes and along narrow streams. Flooded forest can sometimes be found along the shores of these lakes and is usually caused by beaver dams, which are a common occurrence at the head of tiny outlet streams.

The climate, geology, and physiography of the boreal shield normally produce an annual surface runoff that is from 4 - 20 times greater than that of the prairie ecoregions of the province. The amount of water in the region and its significance is underscored by the fact that the Churchill River is the largest river in the province, with a mean annual flow of nearly 22 million dam^3 (1 dam^3 = 1,000 m^3) at the Saskatchewan/Manitoba boundary. A source of surface water is available for domestic and industrial use within a reasonable distance of each community.

The lakes and rivers within the planning area provide the people who have settled along their shores with dependable water supplies, important transportation links, and valuable resources for recreation. They are also vital components of an ecosystem that provides habitat to support the fishing, hunting and trapping upon which many area residents have traditionally depended for their livelihoods. The water resources of the area remain sensitive to contamination from mining and smelting operations, the impacts of water control structure operations, improper sewage disposal, and inappropriate forest harvesting practices. The ground water resources of the area are unmapped and ground water use is likely limited to isolated domestic wells in minor surficial deposits.

2.8 Climate

The Amisk-Atik Area has a subarctic climate with long, very cold winters and short, cool summers. The winters last about seven months. Compared with other areas in the south, the long summer days, of up to 18.5 hours of daylight, somewhat offset the shorter growing season (less than 100 frost-free days) and the less intensive solar radiation. Agriculture is severely limited, as grain and most other food crops need at least 100 frost-free days to grow.

Temperature decreases from southwest to northeast across the Amisk-Atik Planning area. Mean winter temperature in January is about -24°C, and mean summer temperature is around 16°C. Total precipitation is variable, low and tends to decrease from south to north. About two-thirds of annual precipitation occurs as rain from July through September. Mean annual precipitation ranges from 451 - 528 mm.

Climate change is gaining wide acceptance in the scientific community. A recent Environment Canada report (Herrington et al. 1997) indicates that the mean annual temperature for the forested portion of the prairie provinces has risen about 1°C since 1895. This is approximately double the global average temperature rise of 0.5 °C reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 1996).

Climate change is particularly important to high latitude forests because these areas are expected to experience greater warming than other regions and because the disruptions to ecological processes may be particularly severe. In addition, high latitude forests support human communities dependent on natural resources which may be threatened by climate change. Even modes of transportation such as ice roads may suffer from climate change.

Climate models suggest a general decrease in moisture availability during the growing season, resulting in increased levels of moisture stress on the forest. This, in turn, would make the trees more vulnerable to attack from a range of insect and disease pests. In addition, a warmer dryer climate will cause increases in insect and disease populations, making infestations more common.

Another potential impact of climate change is an increase in the frequency of forest fires and a longer fire season. This, in association with increased mortality due to insects and disease, will probably lead to a much more severe fire disturbance regime.

This combination of moisture stress and increases in insects/diseases and fires will probably result in an overall loss of biomass, at least until vegetation reaches equilibrium with the new climate. In addition, the boundary of the forest may contract at the southern edges as the supply of moisture becomes insufficient to support tree growth. Other impacts of climate change could include changes in water quantity and timing of peak flows associated with spring snow melt.

2.9 Archaeological Heritage

Archaeological heritage sites are locations on the land that contain physical remains and other material evidence of past human activity. Whether an ancient aboriginal campsite, a European trading post, a trapper's cabin, or an historic mining town, archaeological sites typically contain artifacts like tools and other occupational debris made of stone, bone, clay, wood, or metal. The artifacts are often associated with the remains of dwellings and other structures, or with buried hearths, cooking pits, food caches, or other features. As physical and often inconspicuous components of the land, archaeological sites are highly vulnerable to disturbance or destruction from land development. They are also measurably finite in quantity, non-renewable, and unique. Figure 2-6 highlights the general location of various archaeological sites in the Amisk-Atik Planning area.

The archaeological heritage landscape of Saskatchewan's boreal forest is a reflection of human adaptation, social interaction, and cultural change over a period of at least 8,000 years (For a more detailed account of the regional cultural history through the contact period, see Ramsay and Ramsay, Amisk Lake Heritage Study, 1996:10-18). It is a collection of mostly ancient aboriginal and early historic period sites that represent the full range of human settlement, subsistence, technology, ideology, and resource use. Although the Amisk-Atik Planning Area has not been extensively surveyed for archaeological heritage, already 500 sites are known. They include mainly pre-contact period campsites, hunting and gathering sites, ceremonial sites, burial sites, and other sacred places (including ancient rock paintings or "pictographs"). Typically, areas close to larger water bodies (especially along sheltered bays and inlets) were the most favoured for habitation and so tend to exhibit the highest site densities. Usually these areas also contain the largest encampments, including those that were often repeatedly used over long periods of time. These sites, in particular, often have the greatest potential to enhance our understanding and appreciation of aboriginal culture and history. Other areas of high site potential include the banks of prominent streams and rivers that were used for transportation, portage routes, stream intersections, and upland ridges along some of the larger bogs and marshes. The 10 or so confirmed or possible burial sites, the 37 known pictographs, and several other recorded sacred sites are afforded special recognition and protection under s.64 of *The Heritage Property Act*.

Other archaeological heritage sites in the planning area include several historic fur trade posts (like Frobisher-Henry Fort and Blondeau's Post on Amisk Lake), historic settlements and trails (like Beaver City), and various trapper's cabins.

Not all aboriginal heritage sites in the planning area are necessarily archaeological. Various cultural heritage locations, such as traditional hunting areas, or where First Nations people traditionally gathered wild foods and medicines, or places where religious practitioners went historically, and continue to go, to perform ceremonial activities in accordance with traditional practices, are immeasurably significant to contemporary First Nations communities. Traditional cultural locations such as these are often vital to maintaining the cultural and historical identity of communities. Unfortunately, these sites often leave little if any physical trace on the land, and have not been systematically documented.

Nevertheless, many heritage sites contain a unique body of data that bears directly on our understanding and appreciation of human behaviour and society in this region. If properly recovered and studied, these data (combined with traditional knowledge) can be used to reconstruct past lifeways, understand people's relationship to the land, and throw light on the many complex processes that underlie cultural and environmental change. But besides this scientific importance, many sites also have ethnic, social, religious, or other special symbolic or cultural value. From a humanistic perspective, these sites need to be preserved for the public good, and to be recognized, admired, understood, and appreciated. The continued protection and stewardship of these sites is an important responsibility of the Government of Saskatchewan, and a primary concern of northern Aboriginal peoples.

2.10 Provincial Recreation Sites and Other Designated Areas

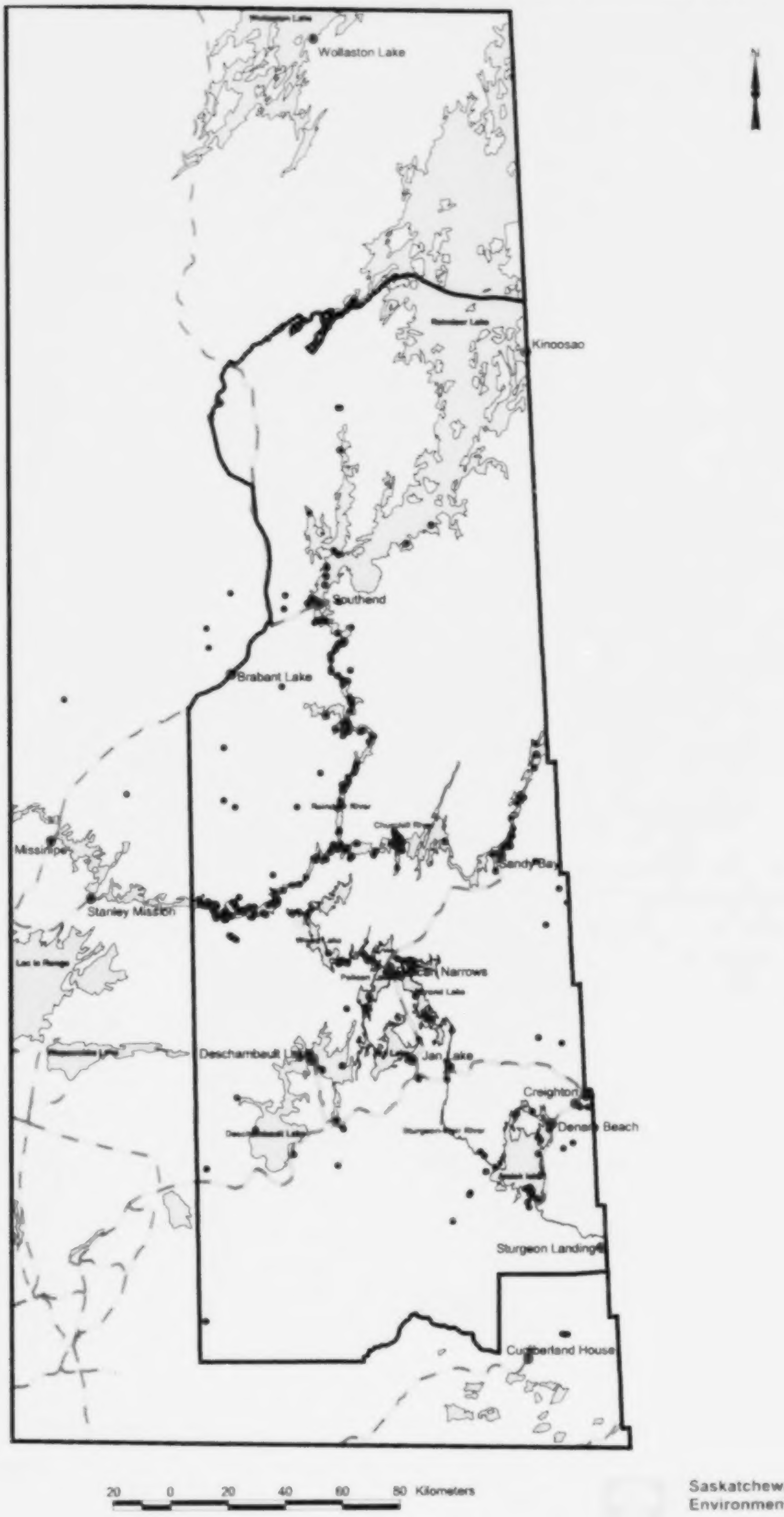
A number of areas within the Amisk-Atik Planning Area have been designated for the purposes of setting aside land and resources that will assist in providing a variety of benefits for area residents and visitors. These benefits include those that are of a recreational, heritage, scientific, protection, and/or educational nature. These areas include provincial recreation sites and the Representative Areas Network Sites. See Figure 2-7.

2.10.1 Provincial Recreation Sites

Provincial recreation sites, which tend to be relatively small areas, allow for access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Facilities such as campsites, picnic tables and barbeques, and lake access points are often provided at these sites. Eleven provincial recreation sites that have been designated under *The Parks Act* are found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. Table 2-1 describes these recreation sites in terms of general location and size, year of designation, and number of campsites.

Provincial recreation sites are one of the different types of park land found throughout the province of Saskatchewan. Appendix 15 provides a brief overview of Saskatchewan's Provincial Park Land System.

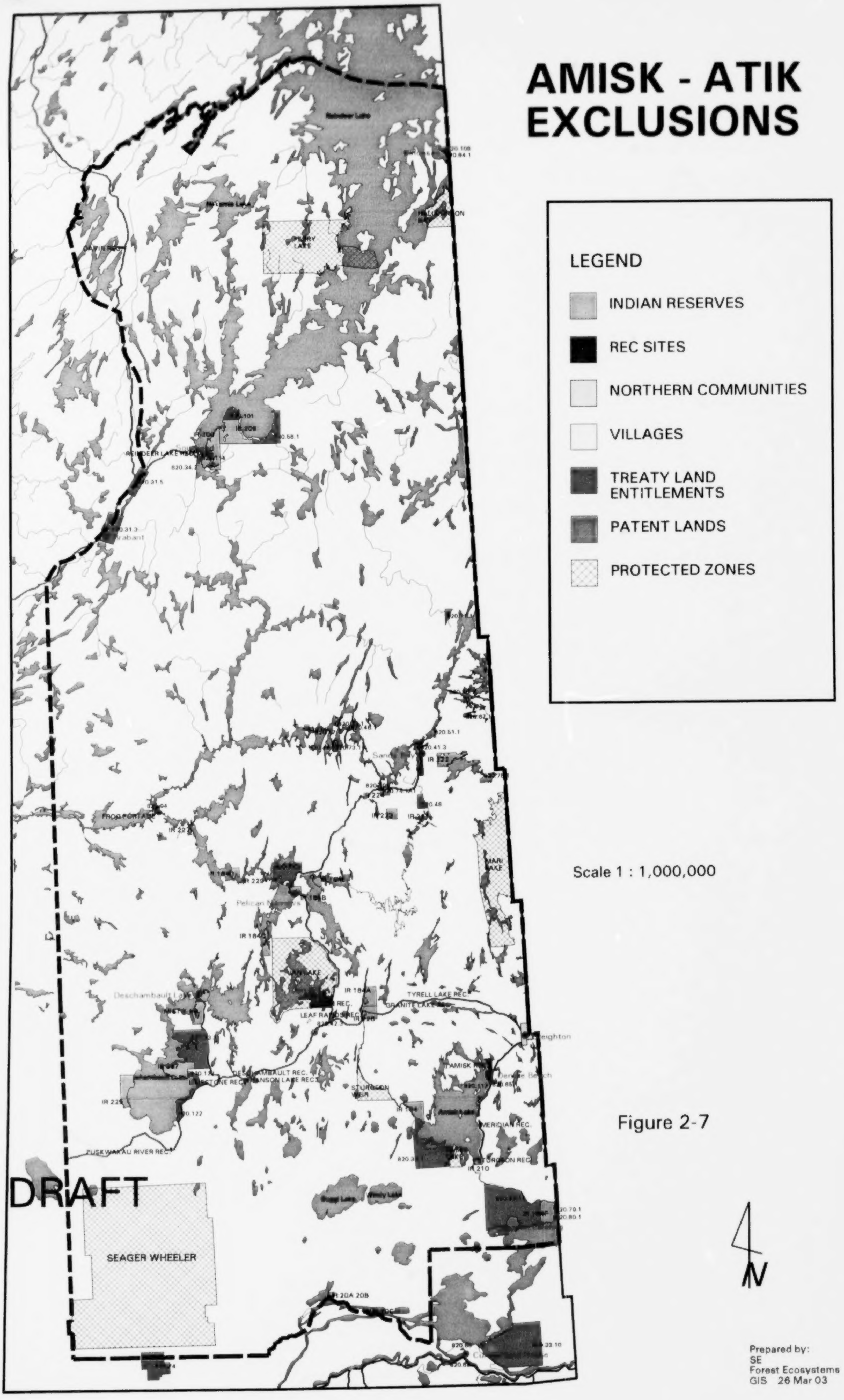
Archeological Sites in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Sandy Bay
Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
Lac la Ronge
N
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 2-6

AMISK - ATIK EXCLUSIONS

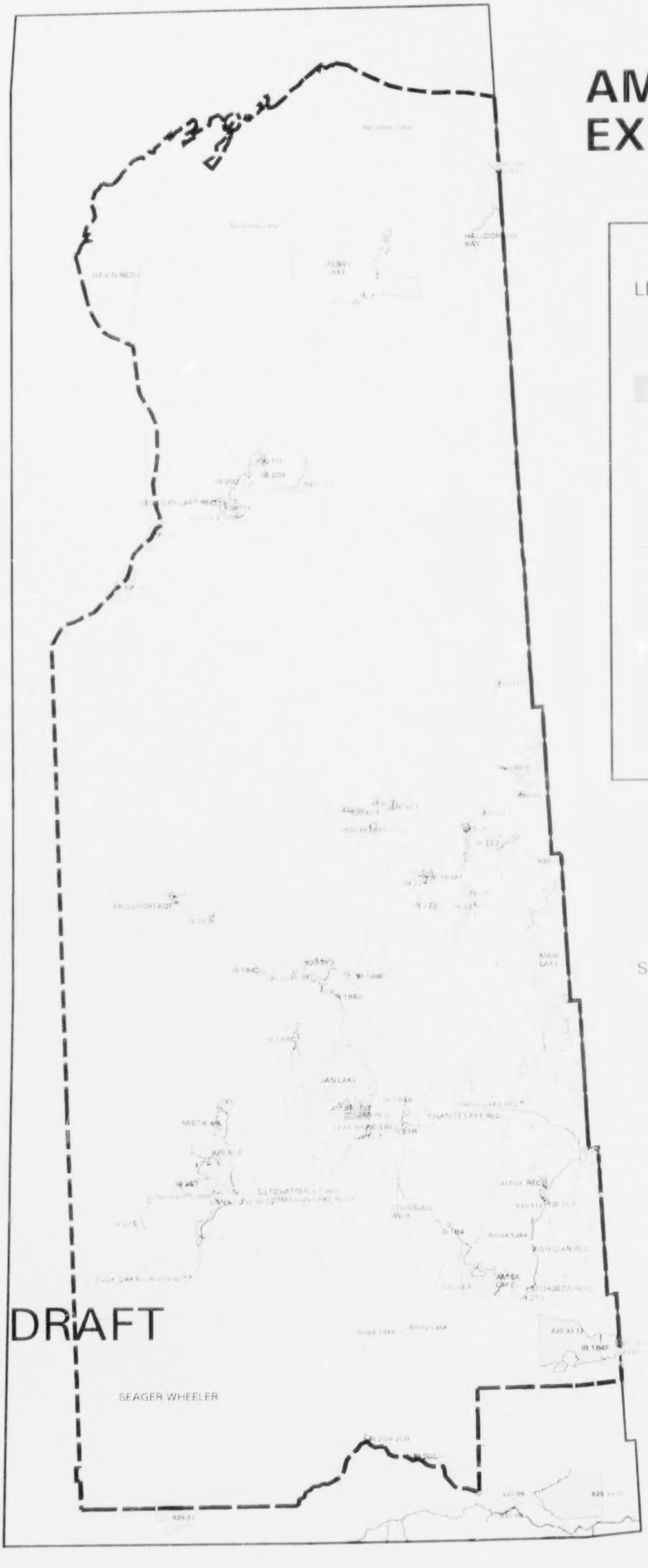

LEGEND
INDIAN RESERVES
REC SITES
NORTHERN COMMUNITIES
VILLAGES
TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENTS
PATENT LANDS
PROTECTED ZONES
Reindeer Lake
PERRY LAKE
IR 200
IR 209
REINDEER LAKE REC
820.58.1
820.34.2
820.31.5
820.31.3
FROG PORTAGE
IR 222
Sandy Bay
820.51.1
820.41.3
IR 221
820.48
MARI LAKE
Pelican Narrows
IR 184B
IR 184C
IR 184A
LEAF RAPIDS REC.
TYRELL LAKE REC.
GRANITE LAKE REC.
Deschambault Lake
DESCHAMBAULT REC.
LIMESTONE REC.
HANSON LAKE REC.
STURGEON WEIR
Creighton
Denare Beach
AMISK REC.
MERIDIAN REC.
STURGEON REC.
IR 210
IR 184
820.122
IR 225
PUSKWAKAU RIVER REC.
SEAGER WHEELER
DRAFT
IR 20A 20B
820.79.1
820.80.1
820.33.10
N

Scale 1 : 1,000,000

Figure 2-7

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 26 Mar 03

AMISK - ATIK EXCLUSIONS


HALLDORSON BAY
PERRY LAKE
DAVIN REC
IR 209
IR 200
FROG PORTAGE
MARI LAKE
JAN LAKE
GRANITE LAKE REC
METIK
DESCHAMBAULT LAKE
AMISK REC
Amisk Lake
AMISK LAKE
IR 184F
IR 210
DRAFT
SEAGER WHEELER

LEGEND

INDIAN RESERVES

▨ REC SITES

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

VILLAGES

TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENTS

PATENT LANDS

PROTECTED ZONES

Scale 1 : 1,000,000

Figure 2-7

N

Prepared by:
SE
Forest Ecosystems
GIS 26 Mar 03

Table 2.1 Recreation Sites Designated Under *The Parks Act*

AREA	SIZE (HA)	#CAMPSITES	GENERAL LOCATION	YEAR DESIGNATED
Amisk Lake	500	39 4 group sites	Two areas: -Sawmill Bay (leased; and north end of Amisk Lake) -Sturgeon-weir/Sand Bay (south end of Amisk Lake)	1986
Davin Lake	25	0	-km 75, Highway 905	1986
Deschambault Lake (land lease only)	10	10	-along Highway #106 -South East Arm, Deschambault Lake	1986
Granite Lake	10	6	-south end Granite Lake; off Highway #106	1986
Hanson Lake	65	12	-along west shore of Hanson Lake; access via Highway #106	1986
Jan Lake (lease)	2,070	57	-along Highway #135 and southeast shore of Jan Lake	1976
Leaf Rapids	0.8	8	-Highway #106 and north end of Maligne Lake	1986
Limestone Lake	20	0 (no services)	-north end Limestone Lake; access via Highway #106	1991
Meridian Creek	30	0	-east of Highway #167 along eastern section of Amisk Lake	1986
Puskwakau River	25	0 (no services)	-along Highway #106	1986
Reindeer Lake (Norvil Olson)	320	20 (3 not maintained)	-intersection of north end of Highway #102 and south-westerly bank of Numabin Bay on Reindeer Lake	1986
Tyrrell Lake	24	6	-south end Tyrrell Lake; off Highway #106	1986

2.10.2 Representative Areas Network Program

The Representative Areas Network (RAN) is composed of lands and waters that are designated and managed to represent and conserve our ecological resources for current and future generations. RAN sites act both as reservoirs of biological diversity and as benchmarks for comparison with the more heavily utilized landscapes. RAN sites will also provide for the following: (1) protection of areas known to contain species at risk; (2) areas of high scenic value and unique features; and (3) appropriate recreational, education, and research opportunities. (A more detailed description of the RAN Program is presented in Appendix 5.)

CHAPTER 3: VALUE AND USE OF THE LAND AND RESOURCES OF THE AMISK-ATIK AREA

The land and resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area generate a variety of economic, environmental, and social benefits. A number of different uses and values are generated for residents of the planning area, as well as for visitors to the area and residents of the province of Saskatchewan. The purpose of this chapter is to provide a brief overview of these uses and values and create an appreciation of the competing, and sometimes complementary, nature of these different uses and values. Decisions must be made about the allocation of scarce resources to various uses as a means to optimize economic, environmental, and social benefits. The management guidelines presented in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan play a key role in making these allocation decisions.

The uses of the land and resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area consist of those that are both traditional and contemporary in nature. For example, subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping activities are still practiced by the Aboriginal residents of the area. In addition, more contemporary activities such as major resource extraction industries (i.e., mining and forestry), wild rice production, and various recreational and tourism activities (e.g., outfitting, sport fishing, sport hunting, and snowmobiling) are also common.

These different uses of the planning area's land and resources provide different values for different people. These values can be of a scientific, ecological, aesthetic, cultural, or economic nature and can be generally described as the following:

3.1 Ecological Values

Forests are ecosystems - systems made up of air, water, soil, plants, animals and microbes, bound together by a web of complex interactions. Key processes in ecosystems are production of organic matter and cycling of elements among soil, water, air, and organisms. These processes provide what are known as ecosystem services - the flow of materials, energy and information from natural resources which contribute to human welfare and maintenance of biodiversity. These services include atmospheric gas regulation, climate regulation, water regulation, erosion control and nutrient recycling.

Our forests are part of larger global ecosystems. Management practices such as harvesting timber or other resources affect other parts of the ecosystem, and systems in other parts of the world. Maintaining healthy functioning ecosystems, from local to global scales, is essential for maintenance of conditions for life on earth, as well as sustained production of renewable resources. The area has high levels of biodiversity, with biologically diverse communities of plants and animals, influenced by climate and the physiography of the area.

3.2 Scientific Values

Forests are an integral part of our natural environment, a living laboratory for scientists learning about ecosystem functions. The requirement and ability to maintain ecological biodiversity and natural resource sustainability will benefit from values established by an assimilation of scientific and local knowledge.

3.3 Aesthetic and Spiritual Values

For many people, the forest has values which may be thought of as aesthetic (i.e., related to appreciation of its beauty) or as spiritual. Northern people resident to the planning area and many visitors involved in recreational pursuits have special feelings about the forests. Forests represent a refuge of unspoiled nature for those from more settled areas. Resource utilization is often perceived as a destructive force on what is wild and natural. Although these emotional responses are difficult to measure, they still must be provided for in land and resource management. Aesthetic values are hard to quantify, but they are an important part of our quality of life. Various research tools in the area of social-psychology and economics provide a means of addressing these non-market commodities when resource allocation decisions are made.

3.4 Cultural Values

Forests are an important part of our identity as a nation and province. For many Aboriginal people, the forests have been their home for thousands of years, shaping their culture and traditions. The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has traditionally inhabited the area that runs from Namew Lake in the south to Reindeer Lake in the north, and from the Manitoba border to about the 104th parallel of longitude. The PBCN is Saskatchewan's second largest First Nation, with 6,510 people as of 1998. The planning area contains numerous traditional cultural areas, including areas for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, ceremonial grounds, and burial sites.

3.5 Economic Values

The economic value of the uses of land and resources are those values that can be described in dollar terms. These dollar values help to account for the net dollar benefits (or additional monies) that are generated due to a particular activity and that are added to the economy of a particular region. These dollar values are also an indicator as to how dollar benefits are distributed throughout an economy in terms of employment, income, and levels of output. The economic value of the uses of the land and resources of the Amisk-Atik area is one factor that can be used to provide an understanding how an individual or group of activities can assist in enhancing the economic development of a particular region.

Various uses and values of the planning area's land and resources are described below. In most instances, these uses and values are described in economic or dollar terms. Often the information that is the most available and the easiest to interpret is that of an economic nature. However, this should not be interpreted to mean that economic information is the most important to consider when making allocation decisions. Economic value is only one important perspective, among many that should be taken into consideration.

3.5.1 Mineral Exploration and Development

The mining industry is one of the major contributors to the Saskatchewan economy. (Appendix 6 provides a very general overview of Saskatchewan's mining industry and its relationship to the land use planning process.) Saskatchewan is the world leader in the production of potash and uranium. In 1997 the mining industry provided for 5,960 direct jobs, 10-12,000 indirect jobs, and $245 million in royalties to the province, from an annual production valued at $2.326 billion.

Mining is the dominant industry in the Amisk-Atik planning area. Figure 3-1 provides an overview of the regional geology and principal mineral deposits of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. To date, 22 base metal deposits from the Snow Lake-Flin Flon-Hanson Lake volcanic belt have been put into production, six within Saskatchewan. The value of metal (copper, zinc, lead, silver, and gold) produced from the six Saskatchewan mines is in excess of $6 billion. This includes the Konuto Lake Mine that has recently begun production. A number of base metal discoveries within the planning area have not yet been developed, including the large McIlvenna Bay deposit, which is currently undergoing a major exploration program. The Seabee Mine, the largest gold mine in the province, lies north of the Churchill River. The planning area also contains several past-producing gold mines in the Amisk Lake area and west of Southend. The Laural Lake gold deposit is at an advanced stage of exploration.

The recent past-producing Namew Lake nickel-copper mine, located four kilometres east of the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border, demonstrates a potential for nickel deposits in the region. Industrial mineral potential in the Precambrian Shield rocks in the region includes the Deep Bay graphite deposit and building stone potential associated with granitoid rocks and gneisses. Table 3.1 lists mines and advanced development projects that have been developed in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning area.

Improved exploration methods, particularly airborne geophysics, have enabled mineral exploration for base metal deposits hosted by Shield rocks to extend south where they are covered by younger sedimentary rocks of the Western Canada Basin. Exploration opportunities exist in the Basin for diamonds, base metals, and industrial minerals such as silica sand and building stone. The extensive silica sand deposits at Hanson Lake are currently being assessed for potential economic development. There may be some as yet unassessed potential for these sedimentary rocks to host petroleum deposits. Many of the formations are major hosts of oil and natural gas in the southern and western parts of the province.

The vast majority of the land in the Amisk-Atik Area is owned by the provincial Crown. The majority of the area has associated mineral exploration. Activities typically associated with mineral exploration include prospecting, line-cutting, trenching, drilling and geophysical surveys (ground and airborne).

Mineral exploration in the region began in the late 1800s. The first significant gold discovery was made in 1913 by prospectors Thomas Creighton, Jack Mosher and Leon Dion on the northwest shore of Amisk Lake. In 1915, a massive copper-zinc deposit was discovered along the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, which became the Flin Flon Mine. Production commenced in 1930 and ceased in 1991 after more than 60 years of operation. Extensive mine workings and tailings disposal areas are maintained in Saskatchewan for mining operations in other mines in the Flin Flon area.

Base metal production (primarily copper, lead, zinc, cadmium and nickel) in the province has been dominated by the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. (HBMS) operation straddling the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border near Flin Flon. In 1997, the company mined ore from the Saskatchewan and Manitoba portions of the Callinan deposit, using underground mining techniques. The deposit is near the original Flin Flon operation, with employees living in nearby communities such as Flin Flon, Creighton, and Denare Beach. In 1999, the Konuto Lake Mine of HBMS, near the village of Denare Beach, began production. Saskatchewan metal production in 1999 from these two mines included copper, zinc, gold, and silver.

Other potential mineral resources in the Amisk-Atik Area include silica sand and building stone. The highest potential for these minerals occurs near Hanson Lake.

Copper-zinc-lead (base metals), gold, dolomite building stone, and silica sand have been produced in the region. Deposits of nickel-copper, molybdenum, tungsten, graphite, beryllium-rare earth, asbestos, talc, magnesite, chromite, iron, manganese, uranium, thorium, tourmaline, allanite, corundum, and Precambrian building stone have been identified in the plan area. Some potential also exists for petroleum, base metals, and diamonds to be hosted within the Phanerozoic sedimentary basin.

Regional Geology and the Principal Mineral Deposits in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

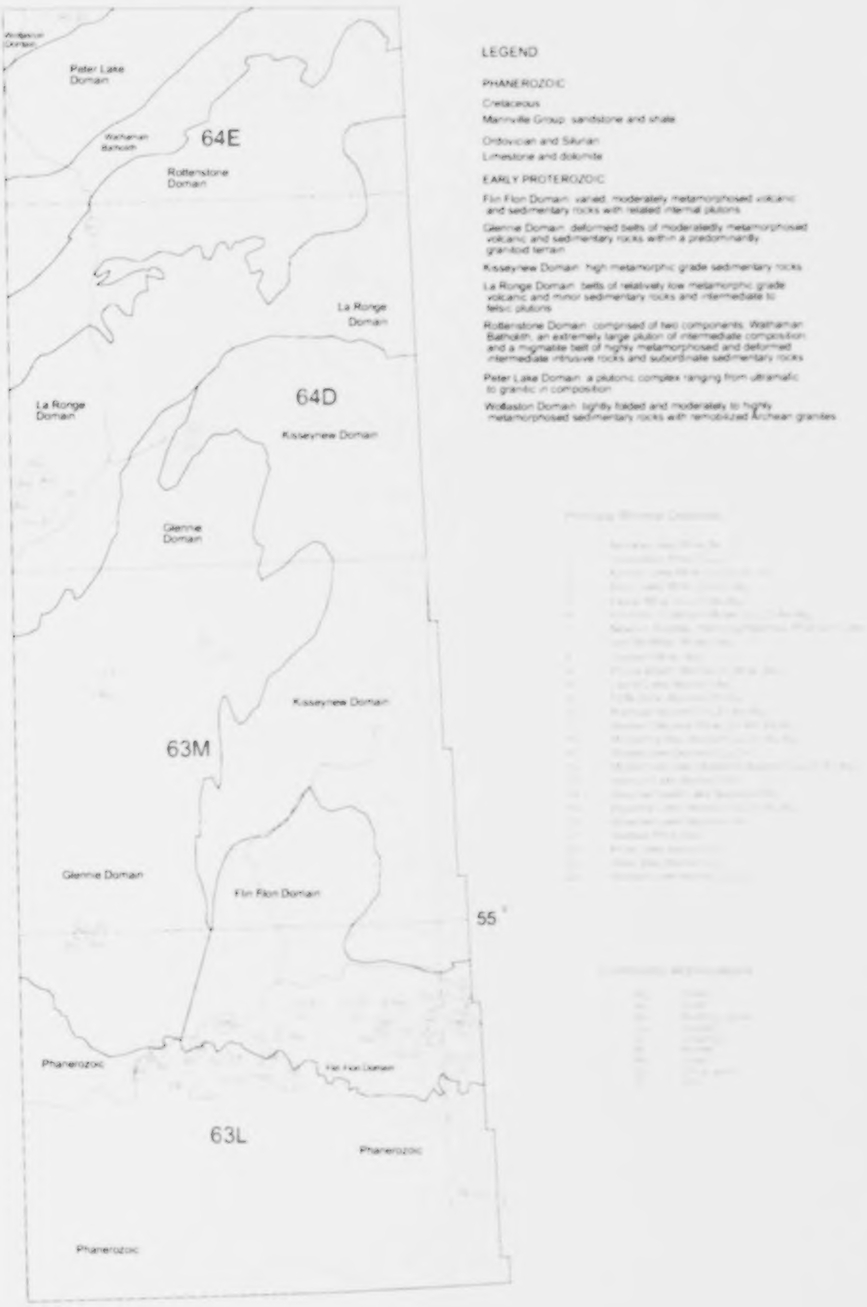

Wollaston Domain
Peter Lake Domain
Wathaman Batholith
64E
Rottenstone Domain
La Ronge Domain
64D
Kisseynew Domain
La Ronge Domain
Glennie Domain
Kisseynew Domain
63M
Glennie Domain
Flin Flon Domain
55°
Phanerozoic
Flin Flon Domain
63L
Phanerozoic
Phanerozoic
LEGEND
PHANEROZOIC
Cretaceous
Mannville Group: sandstone and shale
Ordovician and Silurian
Limestone and dolomite
EARLY PROTEROZOIC
Flin Flon Domain: varied, moderately metamorphosed volcanic and sedimentary rocks with related internal plutons
Glennie Domain: deformed belts of moderatedly metamorphosed volcanic and sedimentary rocks within a predominantly granitoid terrain
Kisseynew Domain: high metamorphic grade sedimentary rocks
La Ronge Domain: belts of relatively low metamorphic grade volcanic and minor sedimentary rocks and intermediate to felsic plutons
Rottenstone Domain: comprised of two components: Wathaman Batholith, an extremely large pluton of intermediate composition and a migmatite belt of highly metamorphosed and deformed intermediate intrusive rocks and subordinate sedimentary rocks
Peter Lake Domain: a plutonic complex ranging from ultramafic to granitic in composition
Wollaston Domain: tightly folded and moderately to highly metamorphosed sedimentary rocks with remobilized Archean granites

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Figure 3-1

Table 3.1 Mines and Advanced Projects in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

Mine Name	Type	Location	Status
Seabee Mine	Au	Laonil Lake	Active mine
Newcor Mine	Au	Creighton	Abandoned - cleaned up in 1989
* Prince Albert Mine	Au	Amisk Lake	Abandoned - cleaned up in 1990
Callinan/Flin Flon Mine	Cu, Zn Au, Ag	Creighton	Operating, extensive tailings in Saskatchewan associated with the original Flin Flon deposit
Konuto Lake Mine	Cu, Zn, Au, Ag	Denare Beach	Operating
Flexar Mine	Cu, Zn, Au	Creighton	Abandoned - shaft sealed
Birch Lake Mine	Cu,	Creighton	Abandoned - shafts sealed
Coronation Mine	Cu, Au	Creighton	Abandoned - cleaned up in 1990
*Western Nuclear Mine	Pb, Zn, Au, Ag	Hanson Lake	Abandoned - condition unknown
Bootleg Lake Mine	Au	Creighton	Abandoned - clean-up being managed by SE, using financial assurance money
Laurel Lake	Au	Amisk Lake	Exploration project
Knife Lake	Cu	Sandy Bay	Exploration project
Bigstone	Cu, Zn	Limestone lake	Exploration project
McIlvenna Bay	Zn, Cu, Au, Ag	Hanson Lake	Exploration project
Deschambault Marble Quarry	Dolomite	Deschambault Lake	Operating
Hanson Lake	Silica sand	Hanson Lake	Pilot project

Footnote: Au - gold; Ag - silver; Cu - copper, Ni - nickel; Pb - lead; Zn-zinc
* Abandoned mines with tailings
Source: Saskatchewan Environment (SE)
Saskatchewan Energy & Mines (SEM)

(i) Base Metals

Six volcanic-hosted base metal mines in the Flin-Flon – Hanson Lake area of Saskatchewan have produced in excess of $6 billion of copper, zinc, lead, gold, and silver. These include the Flin Flon (Sask. portion), Birch Lake, Coronation, Western Nuclear, and Flexar mines, and the Konuto Lake Mine that recently began production. Production has also begun on the Saskatchewan side of the Callinan Mine. A number of base metal deposits with large metal inventories have recently been explored. These include the McIlvenna Bay, Bigstone, and Knife Lake deposits. The past-producing Namew Lake nickel-copper mine, located four kilometers east of the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border, demonstrates a potential for nickel deposits in the region.

(ii) Gold

The Seabee Mine, the largest gold mine in the Province, lies north of the Churchill River in the Laonil Lake area. Several past-producing gold mines occur in the Flin Flon – Amisk Lake area, and on the western margin of the plan area, to the southwest of Southend. The Laural Lake deposit at Amisk Lake is at an advanced stage of exploration. Other areas of extensive gold mineralization include Irving Lake, Brownell Lake, along the Tabbernor Fault from Prongua Lake to Uskik Lake, and Mari Lake.

(iii) Dolomite Building Stone

Dolomite of the Ordovician Red River Formation has been quarried for building stone in the Limestone Lake area. The dolomite has been traced from Limestone Lake to the east shore of Deschambault Lake. Ordovician dolomite also outcrops in several locations along the shore of Namew Lake.

(iv) Silica Sand

Extensive deposits of high-purity silica sand of the Ordovician Winnipeg Formation have been quarried in the Hanson Lake area and are locally exposed elsewhere near the Phanerozoic margin. The Hanson Lake deposits are currently being evaluated for potential large-scale production. There is also the potential for silica sand deposits to occur in the southwest corner of the map area hosted by the Cretaceous Mannville Group.

(v) Other Deposit Types

Other deposits of particular note in the region include: (1) the Deep Bay graphite deposit near Southend; (2) the Jan Lake area beryllium-rare earth deposits; and (3) potential building stone sites of Precambrian gabbroic, granitic, and gneissic rocks, particularly the Sahli Granite. Sand and gravel aggregate also occurs in many localities in the region. Good potential for fuel and moss peat exists, particularly to the south of the Phanerozoic margin.

Significant past producing mines within the Amisk-Atik Area are identified in Table 3.2. The only "abandoned" or "orphaned" mine from an environmental perspective is the

Western Nuclear Mine. Its tailing pond does not meet present environmental standards. All of the others have been rehabilitated or in the case of the Flin Flon Mine has tailing ponds that are still being used. A mine site is considered orphaned when an owner no longer exists for the property and the site does not meet current environmental standards.

Table 3.2 Past Producing Mines in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning Area

MINE NAME	COMMODITIES	LOCATION - UTMS: N;E
Birch Lake	Cu	6060908; 691348
Flexar	Cu, Zn, Au	6062650; 691561
Western Nuclear	Zn, Pb, Cu, Ag, Au	6060535; 638672
Coronation	Cu, Zn, Au, Ag	6052493; 306391
Flin Flon	Cu, Zn, Au, Ag	6071331; 314767
Prince Albert	Au	6066933; 675864
Newcor	Au	6068000, 312248
Blue Quartz	Au	6070570; 677871
Rio	Au	6067020; 312727
Henning-Maloney	Au	6065768, 312335
Phantom Lake	Au	6063058; 314248

Footnote: Au - gold; Ag - silver; Cu - copper; Pb - lead, Zn - zinc
Source: Sask Environment (SE) and
Saskatchewan Industry and Resources(SIR)

3.5.2 Forestry

3.5.2.1 Timber Products of the Forest

The Harvest Volume Schedule (HVS) is the maximum sustainable timber volume that can be harvested each year, as determined or approved by the Minister. Harvest volume schedules set the estimated amount of wood fibre that can be harvested annually from the replacement forest produced from current and proposed forest management practices. It assumes a balancing of depletion and renewal; thus cutovers and burned areas are assumed to be adequately stocked with new forest. If renewal falls short of depletion, harvest volume schedules may not be sustainable.

Based on the current forest inventory data, the core area of the Amisk-Atik Forest Management Area supports an annual HVS of 262,000 cubic meters for softwood, and 85,000 cubic meters for hardwood. Preliminary estimates for the Reserve Area, based on limited inventory information from the early 1970s, with no age data included, are approximately 238,000 m3 of softwood and 102,000 m3 of hardwood. Estimates for the former Suggi Reserve Timber Supply Area is about 287,000 cubic meters of softwood and 69,000 cubic meters of hardwood, based on 1986 data. Therefore, the estimated total annual HVS for the planning areas 787,000 cubic meters of softwood and 256,000 cubic meters of hardwood.

These estimates were calculated for those forest lands which are considered timber-productive, are currently supporting a forest, and are not within designated protected areas or Indian Reserves. Actual harvestable volumes likely will be less, when operational constraints, merchantability constraints, environmental constraints, and the needs of other users and values are considered.

The timber industry has been an important part of the economics of the planning area, with most of the wood transported to Hudson Bay for processing. From 1990 to 1999, Sask For MacMillan Limited Partnership harvested approximately 75,000 cubic meters of softwood and 8,000 cubic meters of hardwood annually. When approved, the PBCN Forest Company operations will be the largest timber harvesting operation in the planning area, with an annual harvest of approximately 300,000 cubic meters of softwood.

Independent operators harvest about 17,000 cubic meters of softwoods annually, for products such as fence posts, fuel wood, saw timber and pulpwood. About 1,600 cubic meters of hardwood is harvested for commercial purposes each year, mostly for saw timber and fuel wood. There are five small sawmills in the area, which use a portion of the softwoods and hardwoods harvested by independent operators.

Domestic use of softwood totals about 3,200 cubic meters annually, mostly for fuel wood. Domestic harvest of hardwoods totals 940 cubic meters used for fuel wood.

3.5.2.2 Non-timber Products of the Forest

The special forest products industry is based on the harvest, processing, and marketing of plants commonly found growing in the understory of the boreal forest. The products used are very diverse. Many plants are used for traditional medicines. Mosses, twigs, bark, lichens and cones are gathered for the floral and greenery industry. Wild berries, mushrooms, birch syrup, and wild plants are used by the specialty foods industry. Essential oils are extracted for cosmetics, fragrances and flavorings, from various plant parts, including boughs and needles of spruce, pine, fir and tamarack. Other craft products include diamond willow, conks and burls. The list is almost endless.

In the past few years there have been a limited number of permits issued for over forty species in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. Interest is increasing in development of new industries using forest products such as mushrooms, berries, decorative floral products, fireweed, and others. These resources are also important for domestic, traditional, and ceremonial uses of area residents. The amount of these products being removed from the forest annually is unknown, however, the demand is increasing and the potential for expansion is even greater.

3.5.3 Wild Rice Production

The harvest and sale of wild rice produced in the Amisk-Atik planning area provides substantial economic benefits to the local and Provincial economy. The plan area, or east side growers, produced 17 percent of the Saskatchewan rice crop in 1999. For east side growers, the average harvest was 11,197 pounds with an average gross income of $8,397.75 (based on a green price of 75 cents per pound). The average production per acre in the region is 200 to 250 pounds per acre. (Reference: Opportunity North Vol 7 No. 2 Spring 2000).

The Amisk-Atik plan area had 66 active producers in 1999. Locations of permitted lakes with wild rice production are illustrated in Figure 3-2.

Table 3.3 provides wild rice production in pounds for the years 1995 to 1999 and annual dollar values based on sales at 75 cents for a pound of green wild rice.

Permitted Lakes with Wild Rice Production in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

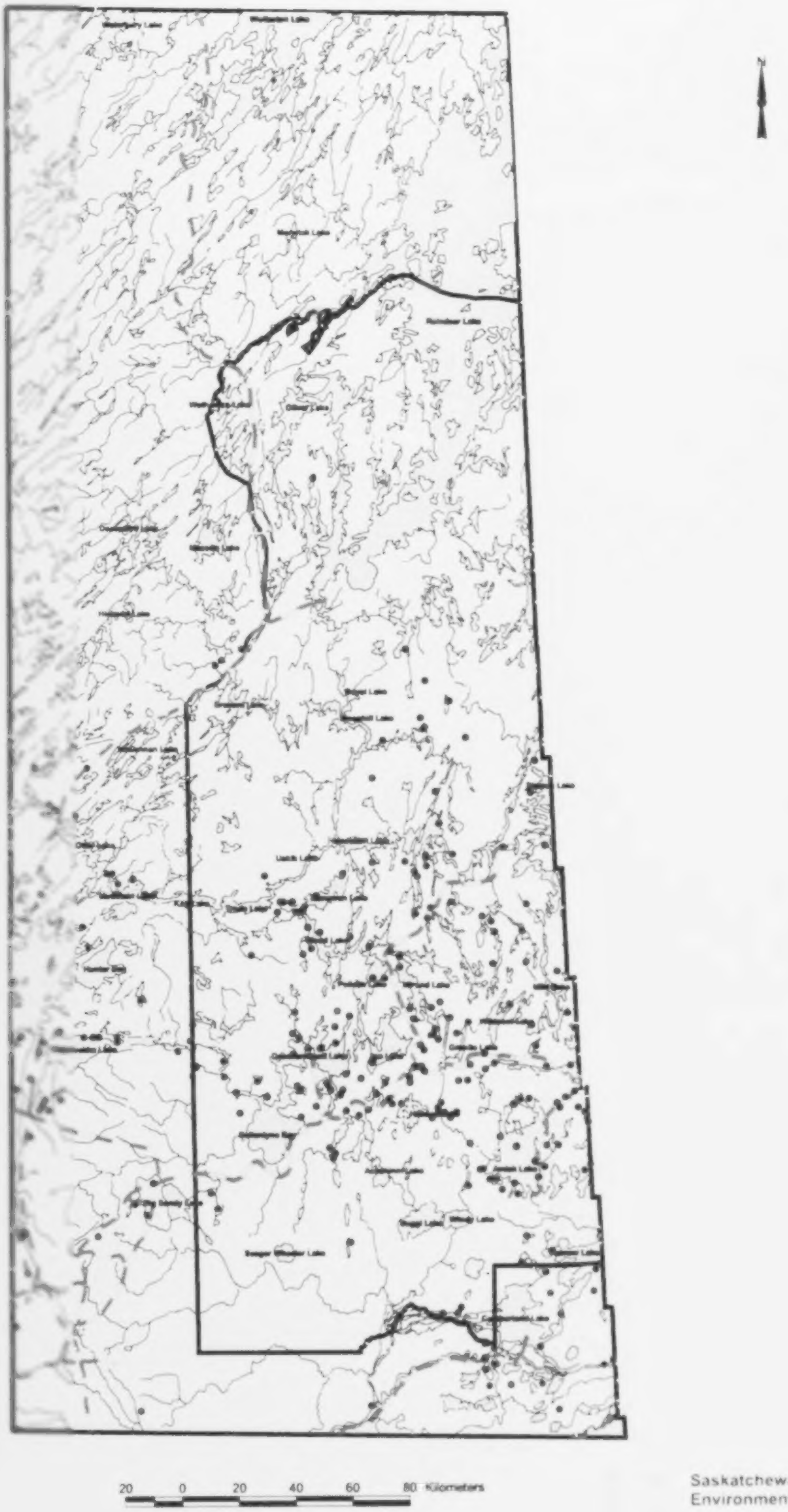
N
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

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Figure 3-2

Table 3.3 Wild Rice Production (Pounds of Green Wild Rice) - East Side

Area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Creighton	218,989	142,490	82,454	243,961	242,903
Cumberland House	40,050	6,791	24,915	55,000	15,223
Deschambault Lake	54,900	73,833	30,231	110,940	93,173
Hudson Bay Nipawin	86,331	90,000	70,000	210,000	168,000
Pelican Narrows	56,000	68,604	67,264	56,137	113,718
Sandy Bay	14,500	84,267	22,129	16,840	105,487
Total pounds	**470,770**	**465,985**	**296,993**	**692,878**	**738,504**
Dollar Value	**$353,077.50**	**$349,488.75**	**$222,744.75**	**$519,658.50**	**$553,878.00**
Number of Producers East Region	**33**	**57**	**42**	**60**	**66**

3.5.4 Consumption and Use of Water Resources

3.5.4.1 Domestic and Commercial Water Use

In the Amisk-Atik area, water use is primarily limited to municipal, hydroelectric, industrial (mining) and recreational uses. Although a firm supply of surface water is normally available near any location, unlike southern Saskatchewan, shallow bedrock and long winters combine to drastically increase the cost of water treatment and distribution. Surface water provides the majority of water for communities.

For northern residents who live outside communities, and for northern outfitters, surface water is also the sole means of supply. In these instances water treatment depends on the needs of the individual or business.

The surface waters of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area are used extensively for recreational purposes such as boating, fishing, swimming, or water skiing. Recreational water quality is generally very good.

Mining operations also use surface water. Although mining operations collectively consume relatively small quantities, they affect the surface and groundwater resources on which they are located on a much larger scale. Proper design, development, management and decommissioning of these facilities are carried out to minimize the impact to the water resources of the local and surrounding areas.

3.5.4.2 Hydroelectric Developments

Two major reservoirs in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area are operated by SaskPower to supply water to the Island Falls Hydroelectric Station. This station is a run-of-the-river facility that created Sokatisewin Lake in 1929.

Hydroelectric developments often utilize water impoundments to create head and / or regulate flow to provide for the efficient production of electrical energy. While hydroelectric generation provides sustainable energy production it also alters the natural hydrological regime, and reduces the stability of aquatic and riparian habitats. These resultant environmental changes or impacts are exchanged for much needed energy and the benefits that electrical energy supports.

Some of the initial environmental impacts of impoundments, such as the inundation of forested shorelines, are mitigated largely by natural processes which occur over time. Submerged trees and logs decompose or are eroded, and the former shoreline areas convert to more stable aquatic habitats. Changes in the operation of existing facilities or new design criteria for new developments are often required to reduce or prevent other long-term or large-scale ecological impacts. Such mitigative changes in operation have been undertaken with respect to the Island Falls Hydroelectric Station and associated reservoirs in the Reindeer-Churchill River system.

In 1943, the White Sand Dam was constructed on the Reindeer River to provide multi-year storage in Reindeer Lake in order to augment flows during low water years in the Churchill River. SaskPower began to operate the Whitesand Dam in the 1980's to also provide seasonal storage by storing summer flows for release in the winter thereby creating a more constant year round flow in the Churchill River. These changes in operating practice have helped to alleviate some of the impacts of the projects by reducing erosion and extremes of water level change, and ice breakage due to draw down of water for generation of electricity.

3.5.5 Consumption and Traditional Use of Fish and Wildlife Resources

Many residents of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area consume fish and wildlife resources for a variety of purposes-- subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping, commercial and sport-fishing, outfitting, and commercial trapping. Resource use in the PBCN traditional territories covers all the activities that a self-sufficient population required to survive in a harsh environment. Trapping for furs must have begun in the earliest times to produce domestic articles for the home, clothing, decoration, and trade with other First Nations.

Later, this fur trade continued and expanded with the companies which exported the furs in exchange for a wide variety of goods. Trapping remains an important part of life for many families and members of PBCN and a link for all to the traditions of days gone by.

Hunting has been a way of life for First Nations people. Fishing ranks with hunting as a prime means of sustenance, and a traditional activity carried on by all generations. Fishing for families and communities continues to be an important source of food, as well as a local economic activity through commercial fishing enterprises. Tourist outfitting for sport fishing and hunting provides economic benefits to many northerners. Recreational pursuits by tourists based on sustainable fish and wildlife populations provide economic opportunity to many businesses in the plan area.

Accurate records do not exist for the amounts of resources used for traditional purposes. The utilization of natural resources is a significant benefit to all northerners in the planning area, and is in fact a lifestyle for many people in northern communities. People engaged in traditional lifestyles continue to hunt moose, deer, woodland caribou, and occasionally black bear, making use of many parts of the animals for food and clothing.

3.5.5.1 Fish Resources

Amisk, Deschambault, Jan, Pelican, and Reindeer Lakes provide the basis for the most significant recreational, commercial fishing, and outfitting activities in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. Other lakes with significant fisheries include Hanson, Namew, Mirond, Wood, Manawan, and a series of lakes which form the Churchill River system such as Iskwatam, Wapumon, Wintego, Pit, Pikoo, and Reeds Lakes. Many of the lakes in this planning area have at least one type of fishery and many have two or more. The fish resources of this area are very important to local residents because they are used for a source of income, traditional purposes (eg. food, ceremonies), and recreation. Non-residents also utilize this area's fish resources for recreational purposes.

There are 40 licensed sport fish outfitters in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area (See Figure 3-3). An additional 10 outfitters have facilities near the planning area and utilize resources within the plan boundary. Walleye and northern pike are the primary sport fish species targeted by anglers and outfitting clientele, although some do fish for lake trout that occur naturally in a few lakes in this area. Yellow perch are usually not large enough to be of importance to anglers, commercial fishermen or Treaty/aboriginal subsistence fishermen.

Sportfishing Lakes Allocated to Outfitters in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

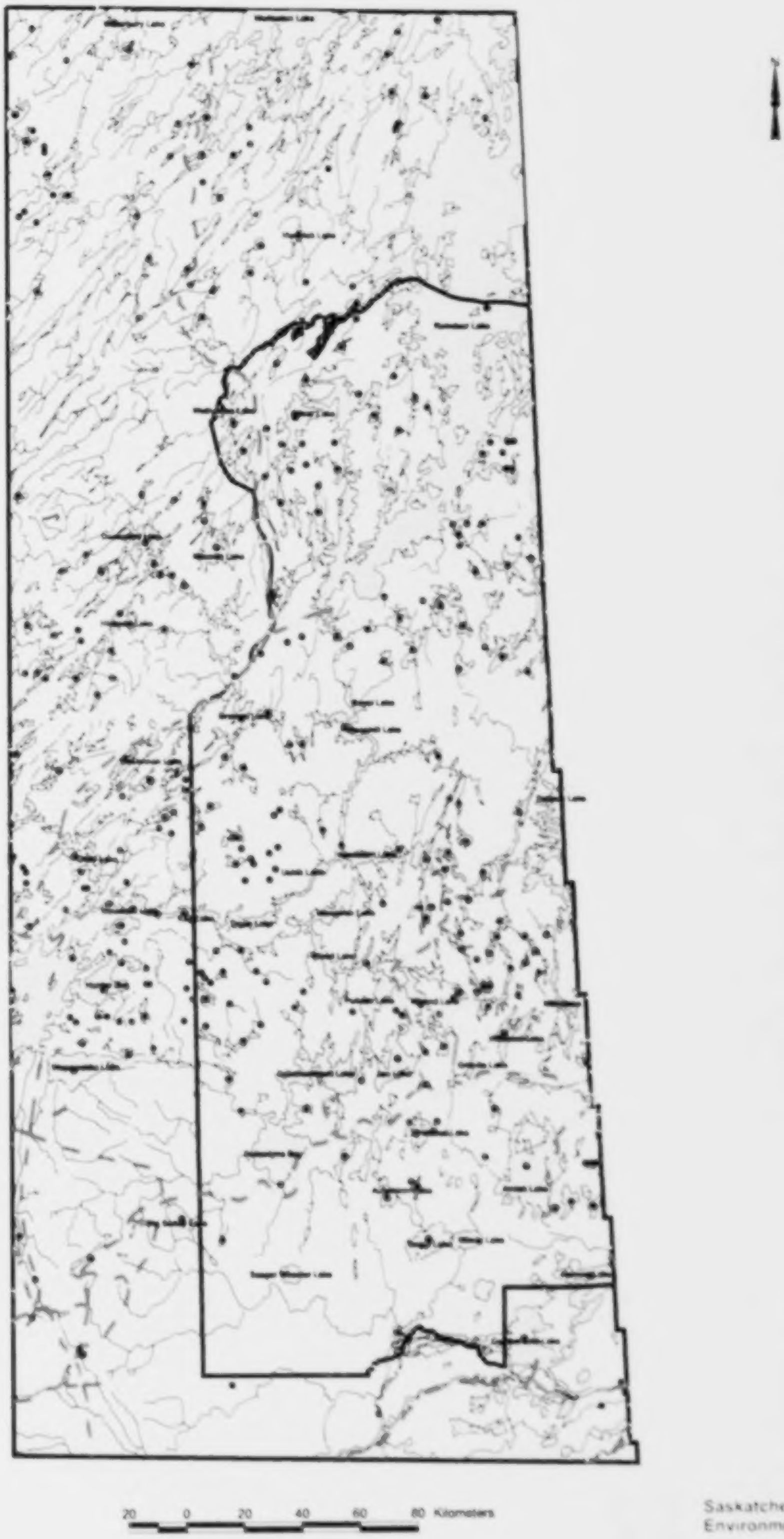
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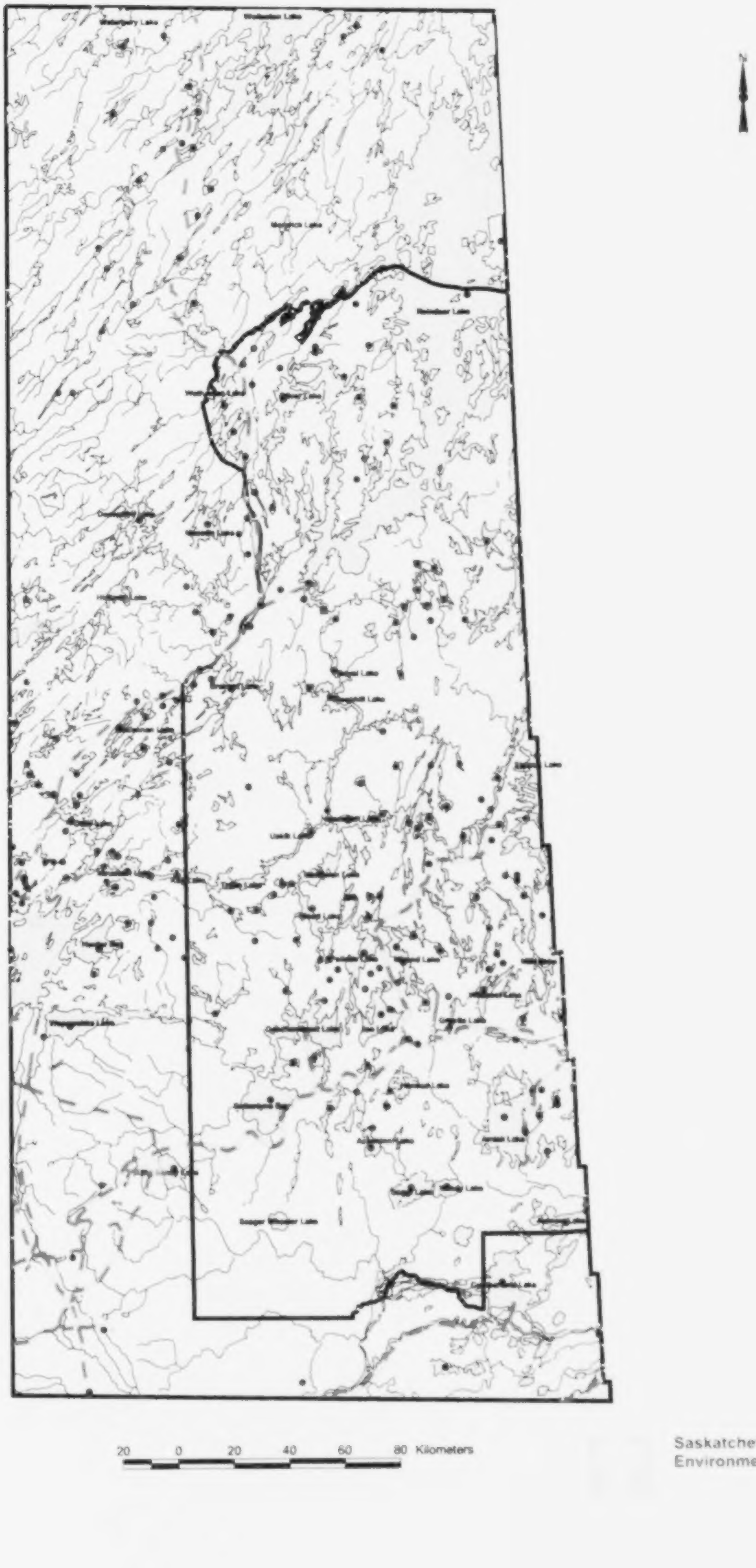
Figure 3-3

Commercially Fished Lakes in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area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20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

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Figure 3-4

There are six Commercial Fishermen's Co-operatives in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. They are located in Southend, Kinoosao, Denare Beach, Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows, and Deschambault Lake. A map of the commercially fished lakes is found in Figure 3-4. The commercial fishing sector employed approximately 200 - 250 fishermen and generated 1.03 million dollars in deliveries to the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation in 1997/98. Primary commercial target species are walleye, lake trout, northern pike and lake whitefish. There was also an estimated total of $12,000 in peddled fish sales that year. The commercial fisheries co-operatives have also diversified their products to include whitefish roe.

Table 3.4 provides a summary of the number and dollar value of sport licences that vendors in the planning area sold for the 1997 and 1998 seasons.

3.5.5.2 Wildlife Resources — Commercial Trapping

The wild fur industry, the oldest commercial use of natural resources in Saskatchewan, is declining. While annual harvests have always been affected by species distribution, human access, weather conditions (particulary fall and winter), traditions and customs, and incentives to trap, more contemporary factors such market boycotts and lifestyle changes are causing an overall downward trend in this industry.

Until European settlement, North American Indians were not economically interested in the pelts of many of the furbearers. Traditional lifestyles meant that larger animals, such as ungulates, were more valuable than smaller furbearers, except possibly beaver and snowshoe hare. European trade items provided incentive to trap furbearers, with beaver most in demand.

In 1946/47, the Fur Conservation Program was initiated in Saskatchewan, dividing the province into a series of fur conservation areas and trapping blocks. The fur conservation areas and trapping blocks found in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area are presented in Figure 3-5. The intent of the Fur Conservation Program was to bring about the recovery of beaver, and to structure an orderly trap line management system to reduce conflicts and maintain forest trap lines as a commercial entity. Original provincial membership was about 3,000 (1,400 Treaty Indians, 1,400 Métis individuals, and 300 non-aboriginal individuals). In 1998, trapper numbers, provincially, were between 2,000 and 3,000.

Table 3.4 Fish and Wildlife Licence Sales — 1997 and 1998
Amisk-Atik Planning Area

	1997		1998	
TYPE OF LICENCE	# of LICENCES	LICENCE REVENUE	# of LICENCES	LICENCE REVENUE
Saskatchewan & Canadian Resident Angling Licence	5,723	$ 91,854.15	5,586	$ 89,655.30
Saskatchewan Seniors Angling Licence	270	2,889.00	275	2,942.50
Saskatchewan & Canadian Resident 3-day Angling License	5	40.15	2	16.06
Non-Resident 3-day Angling Licence	0	0	0	0
Non-Resident Angling Licence	4,363	140,052.30	4,346	139,506.60
Total Angling	**10,361**	**$ 234,835.60**	**10,209**	**$ 232,120.46**
Saskatchewan Resident Game Bird	143	$ 1,573.00	172	$ 1,892.00
Canadian Resident Game Bird	13	754.00	14	812.00
Non-Resident Game Bird	6	696.00	4	464.00
Total Game Bird	**162**	**$ 3,023.00**	**190**	**$ 3,168.00**
Wildlife Habitat Certificates	**861**	**$ 9,471.00**	**657**	**$ 7,227.00**
Saskatchewan Resident Bear	41	$ 697.00	7	$ 119.00
Canadian Resident Bear	3	165.00	1	55.00
Non-Resident Bear	24	2,640.00	35	3,850.00
Total Bear	**68**	**$ 3,502.00**	**43**	**$ 4,024.00**
Saskatchewan Resident 1st White-tailed Deer	147	$ 4,851.00	162	$ 5,346.00
Canadian Resident 1st White-tailed Deer	20	2,800.00	22	3,080.00
Saskatchewan & Canadian Resident 1st Non-trophy White-tail	100	2,000.00	103	2,060.00
Saskatchewan & Canadian Resident 1st Non-trophy White-tail	1	20.00	0	0
Total White-tailed Deer	**268**	**$ 7,151.00**	**287**	**$ 10,486.00**
Saskatchewan Resident Elk	25	$ 825.00	26	$ 858.00
Saskatchewan Resident Archery Mule Deer	0	0	0	$ 0
Saskatchewan Resident Moose	175	$ 5,775.00	184	$ 6,072.00
Saskatchewan Resident Youth Game	13	$ 117.00	14	$ 126.00
Northern Fur Conservation Area	517	$ 5,170.00	241	$ 2,410.00
TOTALS	**730**	**$11,887.00**	**465**	**$ 9,466.00**

Fur Conservation Trapping Blocks in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

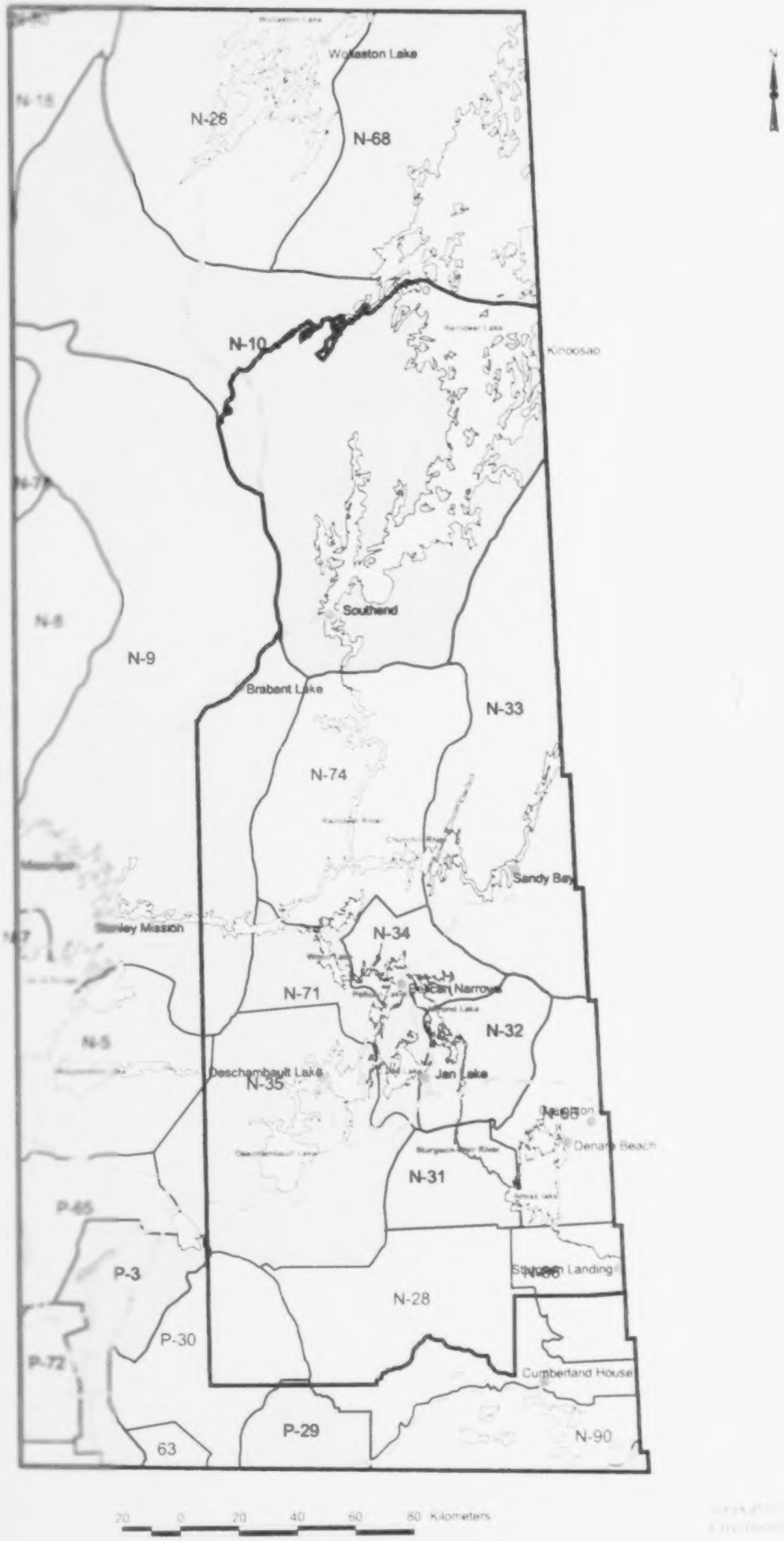

N
Wollaston Lake
N-18
N-26
N-68
N-10
Reindeer Lake
Kinoosao
N-9
N-8
Southend
Brabant Lake
N-33
N-74
Churchill River
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
N-34
N-71
Pelican Narrows
N-32
N-5
Deschambault Lake
N-35
Jan Lake
Denare Beach
Sturgeon-Weir River
N-31
Amisk Lake
P-65
P-3
Sturgeon Landing
N-28
P-30
P-72
Cumberland House
63
P-29
N-90
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Figure 3-5

By 1960 major changes to the trapping lifestyle began. Government agencies funded community projects, which moved people off the land. The snowmobile, which allowed more frequent returns to the community, was a significant cost that meant trapping had to be more profitable. Until 1963 harvest levels of beaver had been consistent. Since 1964, harvest levels have been associated with fur prices.

In the 1970's, fur prices were high, which led to a surge in trapping activity, with average income to trappers of $1,570 annually. For five years, total production value exceeded $4 million. After the boom years of the 1970's, the 1980's were a decade of transition, when European boycotts made fur a low value product. From a peak in number of trappers provincially of 22,500 in 1980-81, the number in 1992-93 was 3,000.

Table 3.5 provides a summary of the dollar value of the fur harvests in the Amisk-Atik area during 1994/95, 1995/96, 1996/97, and 1997/98 fiscal years. The dollar values are not all inclusive. The dollar values are based on reported sales to the North American Fur Auction and only reflect information received from fur dealers. The dollar value of licences sold in the Amisk-Atik Northern Fur Conservation Area for the 1997 and 1998 trapping seasons is presented in Table 3.4.

The value of trapping can not be truly assessed in dollars alone. Trapping is a very important component of a desired lifestyle for northern and aboriginal people. Elders of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation are promoting and preserving trapping through education of youth in their communities.

Table 3.5 Fur Values in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning Area

Fur Conservation Area	**1994-95**	**1995-96**	**1996-97**	**1997-98**
N005	$ 14,852.60	$ 12,532.97	$ 16,423.26	$ 13,035.67
N009	$ 59,764.30	$ 37,723.60	$ 41,734.53	$ 57,981.75
N010	$ 19,627.00	$ 27,622.05	$ 50,152.99	$ 13,125.25
N028	$ 25,886.60	$ 31,348.17	$ 37,878.45	$ 35,727.33
N031	$ 2,456.00	$ 5,048.00	$ 1,512.00	$ 4,236.35
N032	$ 8,655.50	$ 3,938.00	$ 12,736.00	$ 11,212.50
N033	$ 3,221.00	$ 1,461.00	$ 7,645.00	$ 7,663.00
N034	$ 4,745.00	$ 1,710.75	$ 6,733.00	$ 3,508.00
N035	$ 13,948.15	$ 12,913.22	$ 21,737.21	$ 12,595.65
N066	$ 8,915.70	$ 10,625.69	$ 15,561.45	$ 13,869.24
N086	(Figures not available)			
N071	$ 8,009.00	$ 7,727.45	$ 8,878.50	$ 15,570.58
N074	$ 12,627.00	$ 743.00	$ 9,214.00	$ 4,599.00
P030	$ 9,676.15	$ 23,179.25	$ 21,639.04	$ 10,920.06
Totals	**$ 192,384.00**	**$ 176,573.15**	**$ 251,845.43**	**$ 204,044.38**

3.5.5.3 Outfitting

Forty active fishing outfitters are located within the planning area. Another ten outfitters close to the planning area conduct limited operations in the area. Of the forty fishing outfitters, twenty four also offer bear hunts, and twenty two offer guided moose hunts. An average of 55 guided moose licences are purchased each year by outfitted clients, with an estimated eighty percent success rate.

An accurate estimate of outfitted bear harvest is not available at this time. Bear hunting outfitters have traditionally not been very active and a reasonable estimation of bears harvested annually would be fewer than fifty. However, it should be noted outfitting for bear provides significant economic benefits to active operators with established client lists.

There is an administration fee of three hundred dollars for a first-time approved Outfitter Licence. An annual fee of two hundred dollars is charged for an Outfitter Licence having one endorsement and a one hundred dollar fee is charged for each additional endorsement. The annual fee for each out camp or day-use lake associated with an outfitting service is fifty dollars.

Annual fees to Government for outfitting licences in the 2000/2001 fiscal year totaled $14,650.00.

Outfitting provides substantial and ever increasing benefits to the local and Provincial economy. A 1996 study estimated the economic contribution of outfitting in Saskatchewan to be $45-50 million in direct revenues to licensed outfitters, and $90-100 million in gross economic impact for primarily the rural and small community economy. Spending an estimated $32 million annually the outfitting industry provides about 1,000 full time equivalent of direct employment each year, and significant amount of indirect employment in support service industries such as motels, restaurants, food processing and taxidermy. The promotion of recreation and tourism facilities and services supplied by their operations draw people to the planning area. Spin off economic benefits to other businesses in and outside the plan area are significant. Licence sales attributable to outfitter clients are included in Table 3.4.

3.5.5.4 Sport Hunting

Sport hunting activity is limited compared to Aboriginal subsistence hunting because:
1) First Nation priority of access to the resource is generally recognized by residents;
2) there is little influx of sport hunters from other parts of the province; and
3) game populations are naturally low, except in the extreme southeastern corner of the planning area. Hunting success is low and challenging for the recreational hunter.

Most sport hunting is for moose and occurs in the logged over more accessible parts of the planning area east of Amisk Lake and south of the Precambrian Shield. Annually twenty to thirty moose are harvested by recreational hunters. A handful of hunters also hunt black bear with small numbers harvested.

Licence sales for sport hunting activity are included in Table 3.4.

3.5.5.5 Sport Fishing

Sport fishing provides value to all tourism and recreation activities that occur within the Amisk-Atik plan area. The activity of sport fishing requires services and facilities that support travel, accommodation, supply and purchase of equipment, and the special services such as guiding that only trained people employed in the tourism industry can provide. The health and sustainability of the fish resource must ensure quality fisher experiences for all resource users, if not, the economy of the planning area and peoples quality of life will be severely impacted.

Angling licence sales by vendors in the planning area are included in Table 3.4.

3.5.5.6 Recreation and Tourism

Tourism is a primary industry in the plan area due to the natural beauty of the area, supported by its abundant natural resources. It provides important employment opportunity and economic benefits to residents. Recreation Sites and Representative Area Network (RAN) sites provide excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation experiences, ranging from wilderness canoeing, camping and hiking to facility based fish cleaning facilities, boat launches, car access camping, and fixed roof accommodation. These opportunities are enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike. (See Appendix 15 for additional information on Saskatchewan's Provincial Park Land System)

Recreation Sites and RAN sites provide locations and opportunities for educational and interpretive programing. Interpretation of the natural and cultural features of an area can be in the form of displays, print or staffed programs. These programs, as well as outdoor recreation education serve to enhance people's understanding, appreciation, enjoyment and stewardship for their natural and cultural heritage.

Association with the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) can bring additional focus for education, information and interpretation, because of the sensitivity around heritage rivers.

The mere appearance of an area designated as provincial park land can act as an additional factor influencing visitors planning a trip to choose a given area. Visitors to parks support Saskatchewan's tourism and growing eco-tourism industry. This influence is felt by nearby towns through employment provided by some types of park land and through purchases at local businesses made by tourists. Consideration of this growing segment of our economy and the role park land can play should be part of the equation along with intangible benefits of parks and wilderness areas when considering future land uses and allocations.

3.5.6 Canoeing

The numerous and varied canoe routes in the region provide a significant draw for tourists. There are 3,802 km of canoe routes which includes 23 different canoe trips in the Amisk-Atik planning area (see Figure 3-6). Some of the canoe trip routes overlap. The trips range in length from 2-14 days, with 0-14 portages depending on the route. Descriptive *Canoe Trip* booklets are available in SE offices.

3.5.7 Snowmobiling

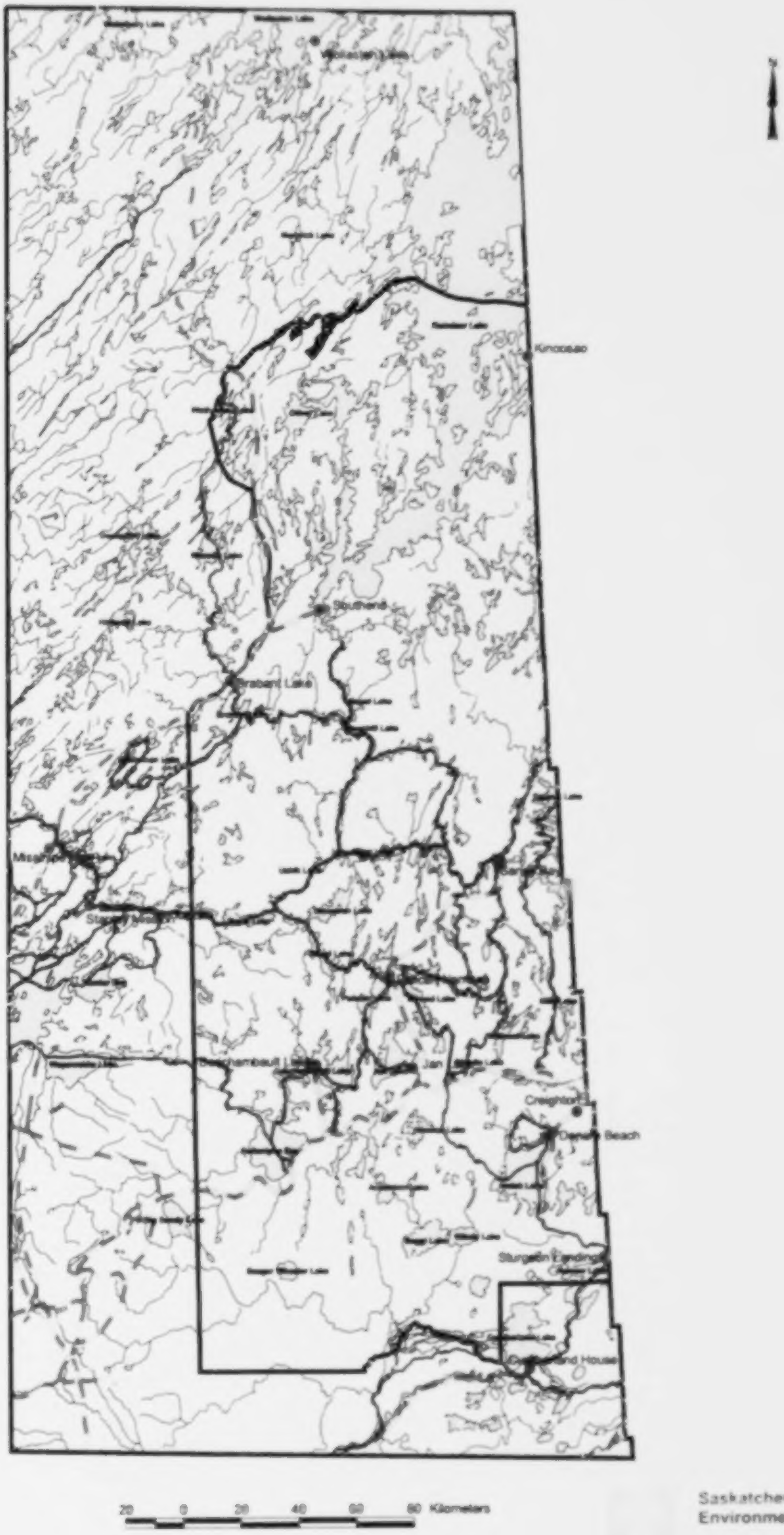
Snowmobiling is used as a form of transportation and recreation in the Amisk-Atik area. Existing snowmobile trails in the planning area are outlined on Figure 3-4 of the Management Plan. The Border Explorers Snowmobile Club operates out of Flin Flon, Manitoba, and they groom approximately 400 km of trails between Creighton and Denare Beach, SK, and Flin Flon and The Pas, MB. Although the club grooms trails in Saskatchewan, the club is not permitted to charge fees for any portion of the trails on Saskatchewan Crown Lands. Recreational snowmobiling provides significant economic development in the area, and as the number of groomed trails increase the potential economic benefits expand.

3.5.8 Land Dispositions

There were 1,127 dispositions in the Amisk-Atik planning area in 2000. These dispositions are in the form of leases, licences and permits administered by Sustainable Land Management Branch of Saskatchewan Environment. Each disposition entitles the holder to occupy Crown Resource Lands. The terms of the disposition entitle the holder to land use privileges that are directly related to the type of agreement.

Leases provide the tenant with the most secure tenure. Terms vary from one to twenty-one years. Licences apply to wild rice operations and are issued on ten year terms. Permits are associated with land uses that are non-permanent in nature. The associated development is intended to exist for a short term. Wild rice for example is set for the first four years of operation.

Canoe Routes in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Jan
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan Environment

Figure 3-6

Disposition holders have a right to use the land base assigned to their respective disposition and must operate within the terms and conditions of their agreement. The Government is obligated to ensure that these entitlements are respected.

A description of the types of dispositions and their purposes follows:

Agriculture
Agriculture dispositions provide residents of the North with an opportunity to pursue agricultural activities. Examples are cultivation and production of crops, dairying, raising poultry or livestock, and includes the erection of buildings or structures required to enhance the operation.

Airstrip
Provides landing area capability for air service.

Commercial
Exclusively covers land use that provides services or products to the public for the purpose of economic or material gain, and includes an enterprise for which a resource allocation is made (see Figure 3-7).

Easement
Provides a right of way on crown lands.

Foreshore/Miscellaneous
Miscellaneous use permits provide legal authority for land uses associated with any activity covered under a lease. Tenure is issued on an annual basis. They provide the opportunity for the legitimate use of Crown Resource Land including the foreshore. Examples include docks, boat lifts, boat houses and fish filleting facilities.

Institutional
Examples are education and correction facilities on Crown Resource Lands.

Provincial/Municipal Government
To provide required services to the planning area various government departments and agencies require land on which to base their operations and facilities. Examples are boat launches, landfill sites, and communication towers.

Quarry/Sand & Gravel
Provide access to sand and gravel resources (see Figure 3-8).

Recreational and Residential
The desire of people to live in remote areas or to have the opportunity to recreate on remote portions of Crown Resource Lands has lead to and required the development of recreational and residential dispositions. These dispositions provide the tenant the

authority to erect a cabin or residence based on the conditions of the lease agreement. Present SE policy limits new residential development to developed subdivisions or Municipal boundaries.

Rights of Way

These dispositions provide authority to maintain access roads to another disposition.

Traditional Resource Use

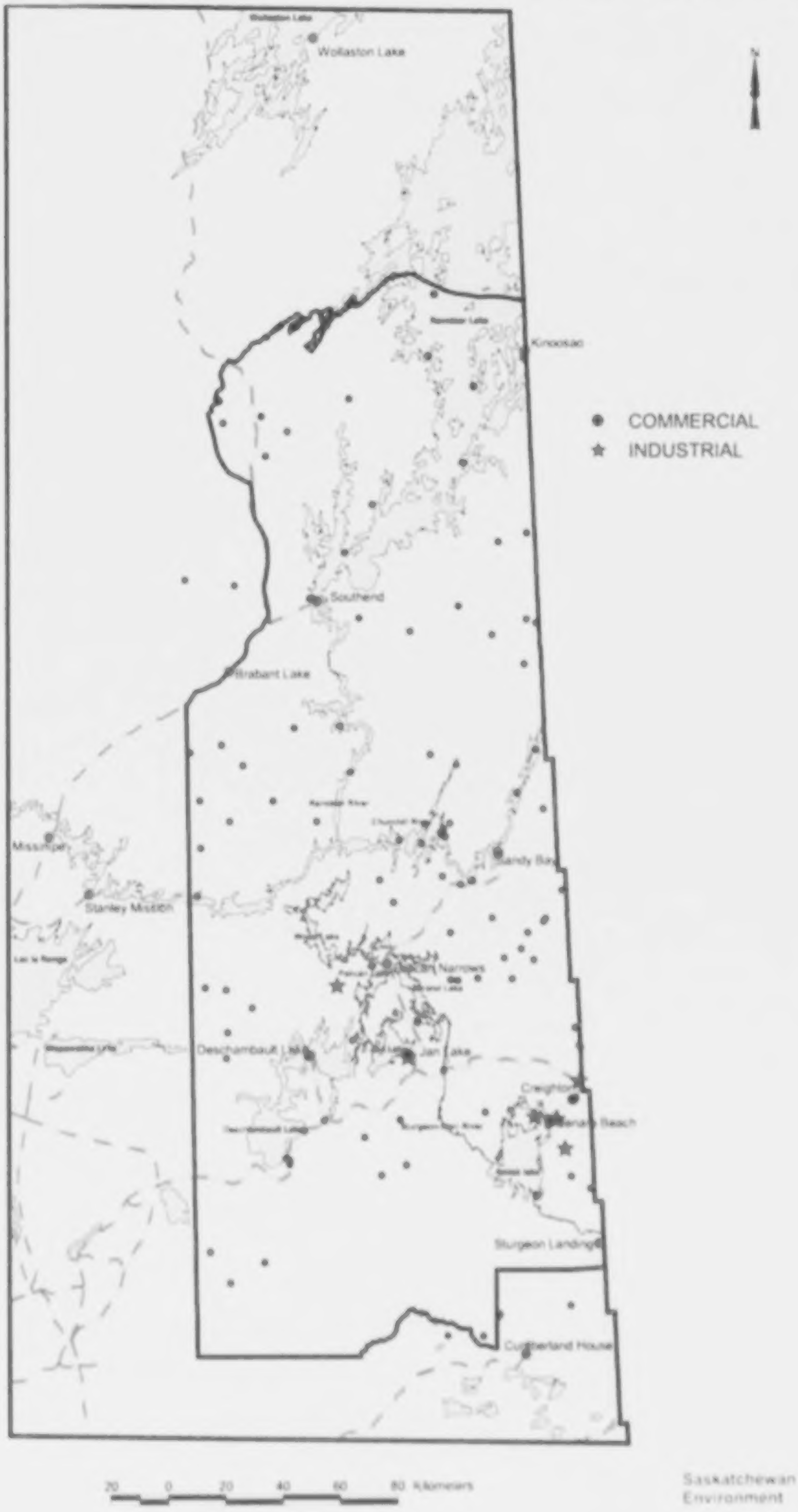
These dispositions provide the tenant authority to use Crown resource land to erect buildings or structures to be used exclusively for residence in conjunction with trapping or commercial fishing activities. Dispositions can be in the form of a 10 year lease or annual permit.

Table 3.6 provides information indicating the total number of dispositions in each category for the year 2000, and revenues to Government generated from land dispositions in 1999. Annually approximately $800,000.00 in fees to Government are generated within the Amisk-Atik plan area.

Table 3.6 Land Dispositions and Revenue in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

Type of Disposition	Number of Dispositions 2000	1999 Dispositions Annual Rent
Recreational Lease	233	$162,282.02
TRU- Permit/Lease	195	$3,705.90
Foreshore Permit	138	$8,279.80
Commercial Lease	110	$324,113.82
Sand/Gravel Surface Lease	81	$64,414.00
Miscellaneous Permit/Lease	32	$14,984.10
Provincial/Municipal Government	27	0.00
Residential Lease	15	$40,708.78
Agricultural Lease	10	$1,210.11
Institutional Lease	8	$824.80
Easement	7	0.00
Garden Permit	7	$320.00
Quarrying Surface Lease	6	$32,923.75
Wild Rice (Land) Permit	6	$812.44
Wild Rice (Water) Permit	233	$22,765.76
Mineral Surface Lease	5	$78,953.75
Airstrip Lease/Permit	6	$5,877.00
Right of Way Lease/Permit	4	$288.25
Industrial	4	$13,053.75
Totals	1127	**$775,518.03**

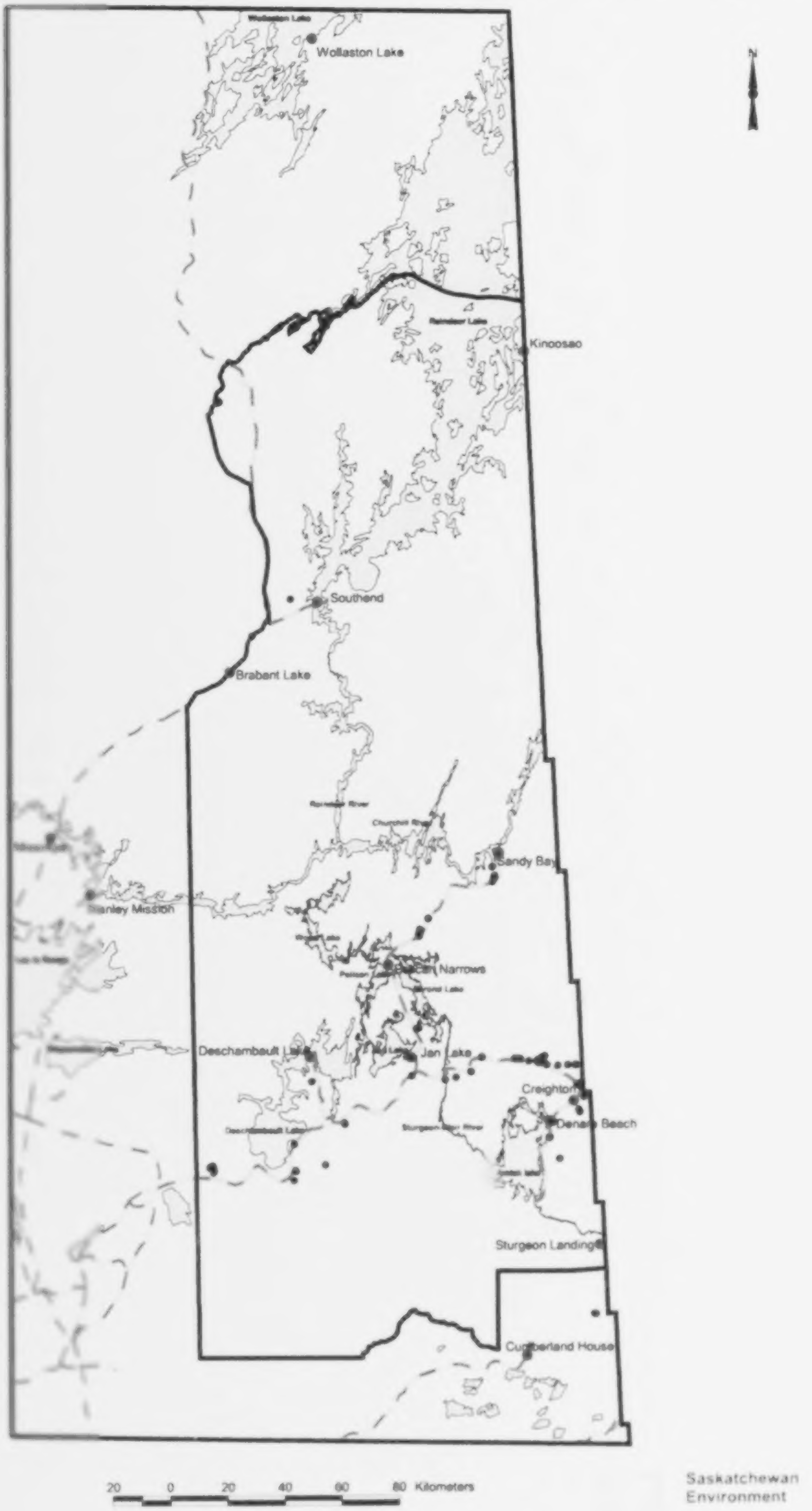
Industrial and Commercial Dispositions in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


N
Wollaston Lake
Wollaston Lake
Reindeer Lake
Kinoosao
● COMMERCIAL
★ INDUSTRIAL
Southend
Brabant Lake
Reindeer River
Churchill River
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Lac la Ronge
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon-Weir River
Deschambault Lake
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 3-7

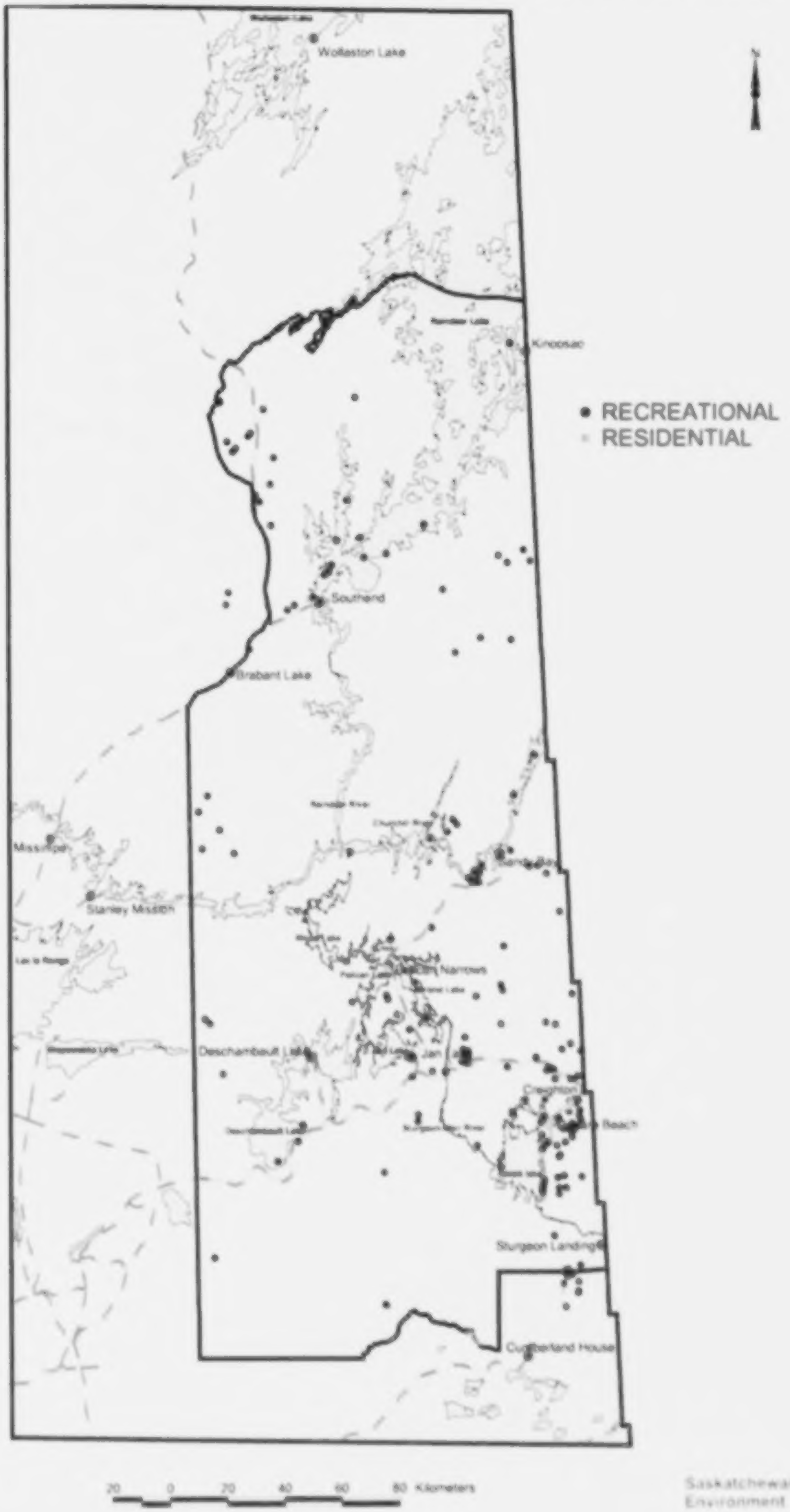
Sand and Gravel Dispositions in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
Wollaston Lake
N
Reindeer Lake
Kinoosao
Southend
Brabant Lake
Reindeer River
Churchill River
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Pelican Narrows
Pelican Lake
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon-Weir River
Deschambault Lake
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 3-8

Recreationl / Residential Dispositions in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
N
Kinoosao
● RECREATIONAL
● RESIDENTIAL
Southend
Brabant Lake
Missinipe
Stanley Mission
Sandy Bay
Pelican Narrows
Deschambeault Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
Cumberland House
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

Saskatchewan
Environment

Figure 3-9

CHAPTER 4: POPULATION DYNAMICS & NATURAL HISTORY OF THE AMISK-ATIK PLANNING AREA

4.1 People and Communities: A Long Association with the Land

4.1.1 Historical Background

People have lived in the Amisk-Atik area of northern Saskatchewan since the retreat of the glaciers after the last ice age, over 8,500 years. The land within the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area would have been well known and well used by its original aboriginal inhabitants due to its abundant natural resources and relative ease of movement.

The major lake and river systems, including the Churchill, Reindeer and Sturgeon Weir Rivers in particular, provided means to move about in search of food, raw materials for tools, and trade with neighbors. By the time the written history of the area began, with the arrival of European explorers and traders, there was a well established social and cultural mosaic of First Nations people, who lived entirely off the resources and environment of the area, in a completely sustainable manner.

Contact with European civilization started a long process of social and environmental change that continues today. New patterns of trade were established, and new technologies and goods introduced. These new goods and technologies themselves likely had a hand in changes to the territorial areas of various groups, as well as the first substantive changes to the environment. The fur trade, including the building of trading posts, and subsequent church missions, altered both patterns of use and travel, and the areas in which populations congregated.

In the years following the founding of Canada, the land within the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area, once part of the Hudson Bay Company land grant, became federal Crown land. Treaties were signed with the First Nations guaranteeing them continued access to their traditional resources and pursuits, and reserving specific lands for them, while opening the land to other forms of economic development.

In the Amisk-Atik area, mining and hydroelectric development were two of the major new uses to be established, even before the province attained ownership of the land, and control of the natural resources. While Saskatchewan became a province in 1905, the land and resources of the area were not transferred to provincial administration until 1930, with the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA) with Canada. This began another period of development that continues to the present day, with the latest proposals for development originating with the people of the area themselves.

4.1.2 Communities of the Planning Area

There are nine distinct communities within the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area. These communities range in size from hamlets with 50 or so people, to large towns with well over a thousand inhabitants. These communities are generally well established permanent settlements, but also include centres like Jan Lake, which contains a large number of seasonal residents associated with cottage and outfitting recreational and business pursuits.

Most of the people who live in the area are of aboriginal background, and several of the communities lie partly or wholly on Indian Reserves. The details of population are outlined in Table 4-1. This table shows the population of the area and gives a perspective on recent population growth, average age, and the cultural ties of the inhabitants as expressed in census data.

Table 4.1 Population of Communities in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning Area

Community	1991 Population	1996 Population	1996 % Aboriginal	Average Age 1996
Creighton	1,668	1,713	7.0	31.8
Denare Beach (all)	822	776	25.7	33.2
Deschambault Lake	607	695	99.3	19.9
Other (Jan Lake, Sturgeon Landing, Kinoosao, etc.) [1]	155	175	90.0	31.4
Pelican Narrows Reserve	1,130	1,404	98.7	20.3
Pelican Narrows Village	252	445	91.0	19.1
Sandy Bay (all)	770	959	94.9	21.6
Southend Reindeer Village	142	168	92.3	18.6
Southend Reindeer Reserve	415	647	97.4	20.9
TOTALS	**7952**	**8978**	**60**	

(Source: Statistics Canada)
Note 1: This is an estimate based on a census unit that includes all of northern Saskatchewan

What this table shows is the preponderance of aboriginal peoples in most of the communities, and in the planning area as a whole. It is also evident that the population is young, with average ages well below provincial averages. This speaks to both the growth of population occurring in the area, and the influx of young people from outside the area looking for jobs in resource or tourism industries.

The table also shows that a lot of people in this area live in less formal communities, which may consist of rural acreages, cottage subdivisions, isolated Indian Reserves, and other locations. Small communities like Sturgeon Landing may be included in such wider census results.

One cannot gain a true perspective on the communities of the Amisk-Atik area without considering Flin Flon, Manitoba, which lies adjacent to Creighton, and right on the Saskatchewan - Manitoba border. Flin Flon had a population in 1996 of 6,572, down significantly from the 7,112 recorded in the 1991 census. The average age of Flin Flonians is also greater than that in the planning area, at 34.6.

Flin Flon is a large community in comparison to the communities just across the border in Saskatchewan. The population and services of Flin Flon have an ongoing impact on the Amisk-Atik planning area in terms of the services provided, such as hospitals, retail and commercial business, and schools, as well as in the use of the planning area for recreational activities like fishing, hunting and snowmobiling.

4.1.3 First Nations of the Planning Area

The majority of the population in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area are members of First Nations long established in this environment. The predominant group is the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN), which is Saskatchewan's second largest First Nation, with a population in 1998 of 6,510. This population also makes PBCN one of the largest First Nations in Canada. The traditional land base of PBCN overlaps very closely with the planning area.

Other First Nations have traditionally used parts of the planning area, although they do not have permanent communities or Reserves within the boundaries of the plan. To the west, Lac La Ronge Indian Band members, specifically from Stanley Mission on the Churchill River, and later Brabant Lake on the Waddy River, have traditional lands that extend into the Amisk-Atik planning area. To the south, members of the Cumberland House Band have traditionally used parts of the planning area for hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional activities, most of which continue today.

As well, there are strong associations with neighbouring First Nations in Manitoba, including the Mathias Colomb Band, which has its main community at Pukatawagan on the Churchill River in Manitoba, and members living in Sandy Bay. Likewise, there are overlaps with the Opaskwayak First Nation centred in The Pas, Manitoba.

All of these First Nations are Cree heritage, split between Swampy Cree in the south (Cumberland House and Opaskwayak) and Woodland Cree to the north (Peter Ballantyne, Lac La Ronge, and Mathias Colomb). Differences occur in the dialect of Cree spoken, and in cultural affiliations both socially and environmentally.

4.1.4 Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

The people of PBCN inhabit a traditional territory which runs approximately from Namew Lake in the south to Kinoosao on Reindeer Lake in the north, and from the Manitoba border to the 104th parallel of longitude. The traditional lands of PBCN are in large part contained within the planning area.

There are seven northern communities that make up the core of PBCN community life: Denare Beach, Deschambault Lake, Kinoosao, Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Southend and Sturgeon Landing. All of these communities, as well as several outlying Reserves, lie within the planning area. In addition, about 500 PBCN members live in Prince Albert, where the Opawikoscikan Reserve in the city serves as a cultural and administrative centre.

The following table 4.2 outlines the current Indian Reserves of PBCN in the planning area, as well as the Prince Albert location which serves as administrative headquarters for the band.

Table 4.2 Indian Reserves of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

Reserve Number	Reserve Name	Reserve Size (ha)
184	Amisk Lake	2072.7
184A	Birch Portage	1844.3
184B	Pelican Narrows	527.9
184C	Sandy Narrows	1077.6
184D	Woody Lake	677.0
184E	Mirond Lake	601.8
184F	Sturgeon Landing	2329.7
200	Southend	4219.1
201	Opawikoscikan (Prince Albert)	41.0
202	Wapaskokimow (Sandy Bay)	60.0
203	Kimosom Pwatinahk (Deschambault Lake)	100.0

During the Churchill River study in 1973-74, archaeological evidence was uncovered which dated occupation of these lands by the ancestors of the present Cree Nation to 5000-6000 years before present. That fact is more significant in that the glaciers from the last ice age only left these northern lands some 8500 years ago.

The first contact with European culture happened in the late 1600's. By the latter part of the 18th century, most of the early white explorers and fur traders had been through Peter Ballantyne country, including David Thompson, Alexander Mackenzie, Peter Pond, Henry Kelsey and the Frobisher Brothers. The Hudson Bay Company established its first post in the area by 1818, and the Revillon Freres, or French Company as it was known locally, was there in the 1820's.

Members of the PBCN entered Treaty by an adhesion to Treaty Six signed on February 11,1889 at Molanosa, where the Montreal River leaves Montreal Lake. That adhesion was signed by the James Roberts (now Lac La Ronge) and William Charles (now Montreal Lake) Bands, and included members of the present PBCN.

In 1893, Peter Ballantyne made a case to enter Treaty on behalf of himself, several brothers and some other families, and in 1894, these members entered Treaty as members of the James Roberts Band. In 1898, an Indian agent made the trip to Pelican Narrows at the request of Peter Ballantyne. In 1900, the Treaty commissioner allowed for the formation of a separate band with its centre at Pelican Narrows. Peter Ballantyne became the first Chief under Treaty, and the namesake of the band.

The establishment of church missions, and eventually schools and government offices lead to several community centres being created, including Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Deschambault Lake, Namew Lake, and Southend Reindeer. Other communities grew with the establishment of new industrial development, specifically Flin Flon/ Creighton in the 1920's following mineral exploration, and Jan Lake and Denare Beach in the 1960's following the establishment of widespread tourism opportunities with the founding of the Hanson Lake Road. These communities also attracted PBCN members, as well as non-aboriginal people who developed and worked in these industries along with local residents.

4.1.5 First Nation Treaties

The process by which First Nations ceded rights, and reserved rights to the land and resources occurred with the signing of Treaties in the late nineteenth century. Five treaties were signed by the federal government and the First Nations in western Canada, and three of these Treaty Areas overlap the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area,Treaties 5, 6 and 10 (See Figure 4-1). Treaties with First Nations were undertaken on behalf of the Crown and Bands as ongoing legal frameworks for cooperation, and the articles of treaty continue to be valid in the highest courts in the country.

These treaties provided for the continuation of traditional lifestyles, the right to unimpeded traditional pursuits such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering, and included promises of a land base on which to live. First Nations were given land shortly after treaty signing and reserves were established. Most First Nations, however, were not given the full entitlement of land (52 ha per person) originally promised by Treaty.

When Crown land was turned over to the province in 1930, Saskatchewan agreed to share responsibility with Canada in addressing situations where an insufficient amount of land was set aside for reserves purposes. In Saskatchewan, the land commitment to the entitled First Nations (Treaty Land Entitlement or TLE) now totals almost one million hectares, with a purchase value exceeding $516 million. This program has the potential to double the amount of reserve land in the province, increasing the proportion from 1 - 2% of the provincial land base.

As of March 2, 2000, there is only one First Nation (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation) that has a TLE within the planning area. This involves a total of 73 TLE selections in which 56 of these are active and 17 have gained reserve status. The amount of land involved is 63,648.26 ha. Approximately 9,574.13 ha of land (surface and subsurface) have attained reserve status for two bands under TLE agreements (See Appendix 16).

Court decisions based on Treaty provisions also provide definition of Aboriginal rights to hunt, fish and trap for food as well as the lands accessible for the purpose, for example:

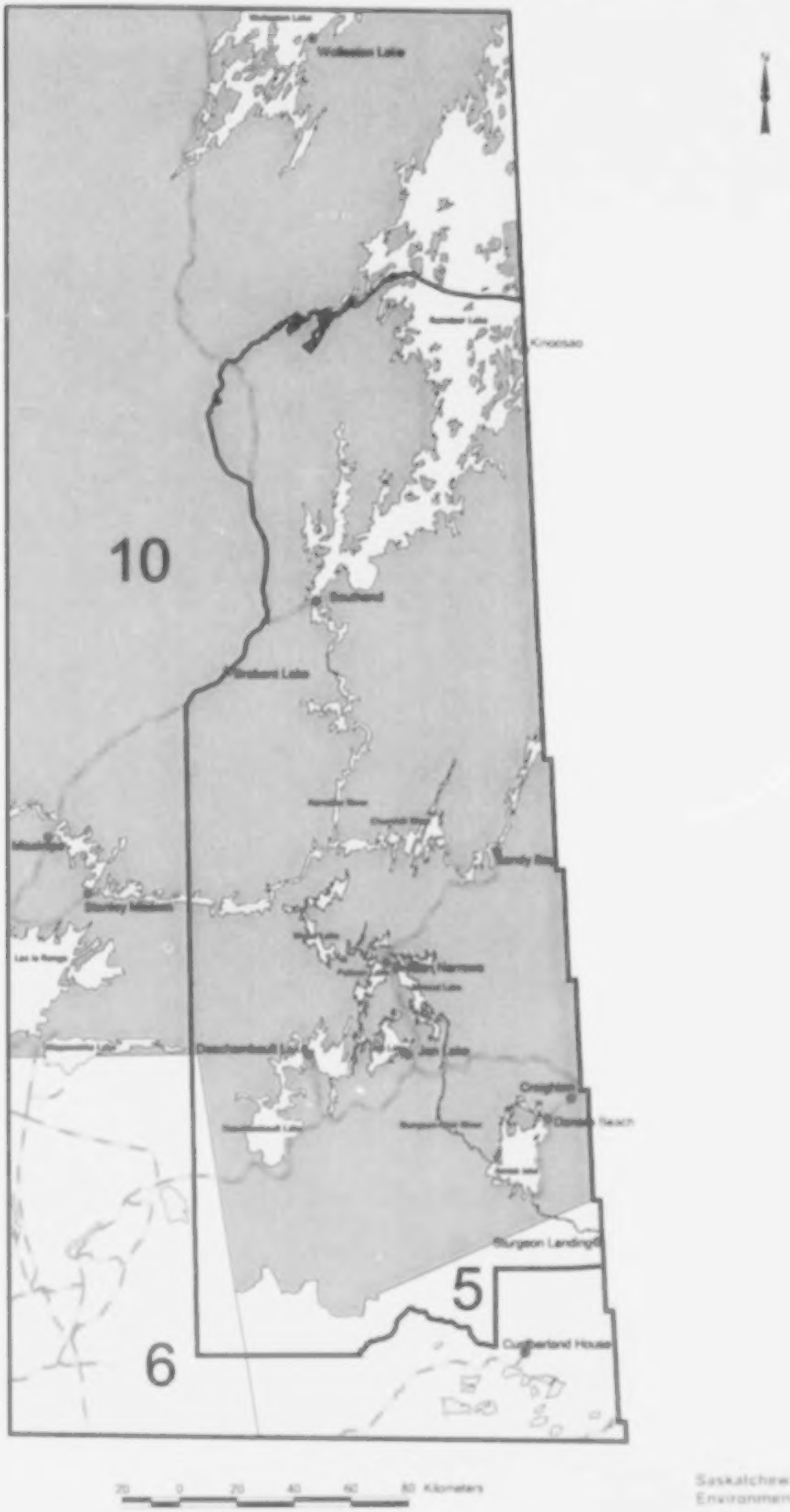
- the “Horseman” decision which concluded paragraph 12 of the NRTA extinguished the commercial rights to hunt but broadened the definition of where Indians could hunt and the time and methods of hunting;
- the “Sparrow” decision which directs government to consult with Aboriginal people on issues which may infringe upon their rights under the treaties or the constitution;
- the “Badger” decision which concluded private land that is visibly in use cannot be hunted on without the consent of the owner, while private lands that cannot be distinguished from other forested Crown lands could be hunted;
- the “Morin-Daigneault” decision which confirms some Métis rights in northwest Saskatchewan; and
- the “Sundown” decision which allows First Nations to build traditional resource use structures on provincial park lands.

As time goes on, continuing evolution of the relationship between First Nations under Treaty and the federal and provincial government with respect to land and resource use will be shaped by new programs, agreements, interpretation of Treaties, and the decisions of the Court.

4.1.6 Other Land and Resource Use Agreements

The Community and Band at Cumberland House signed an agreement with the province in 1990 that dealt with compensation for impacts caused by the construction of the E.B. Campbell dam on the Saskatchewan River which created Tobin Lake.

Treaty Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area


Wollaston Lake
Kinoosao
10
Southend
Brabant Lake
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Lac la Ronge
Pelican Narrows
Deschambeault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
5
Cumberland House
6
20 0 20 40 60 80 Kilometers
N

Saskatchewan Environment

Figure 4-1

Treaty Boundaries in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

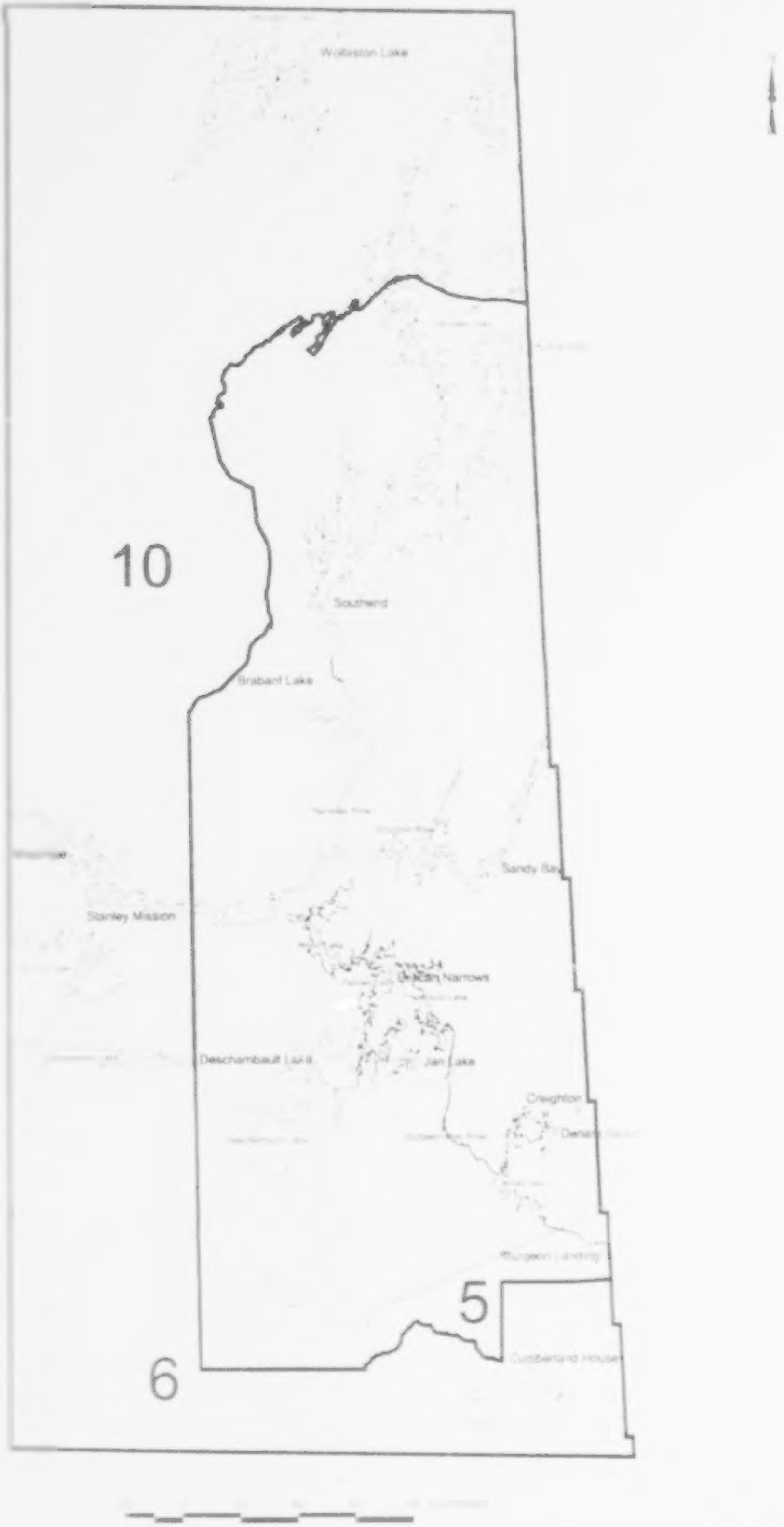

Wollaston Lake
10
Southend
Brabant Lake
Sandy Bay
Stanley Mission
Pelican Narrows
Deschambault Lake
Jan Lake
Creighton
Denare Beach
Sturgeon Landing
5
Cumberland House
6

Figure 4-1

This dam significantly altered the flow regimes of the river and had severe impacts on traditional resource use, recreation, outfitting businesses, and even access to the community. The agreement is effective within a radius of 65 km from the community of Cumberland House, and provides among other things, for selection of lands for community use to a total of 50,000 acres. A small portion of this agreement area extends inside the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area.

In September, 1994, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation signed a Partnership Agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan (Minister of Environment and Resource Management). This agreement covers the whole traditional territory of PBCN, including all of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area, and provides for three main priorities:

1. Enhanced liaison and communication on all matters of resource use and allocation;

2. The negotiation of a Forest Management Agreement (FMA) with significant commercial forestry development potential; and

3. The development of a co-management system for improved resource allocation and management.

During the time this partnership agreement has been in effect, PBCN has developed the FMA proposal which triggered the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan process. This process embodies the principles of the partnership agreement. While the partnership agreement is not a legal transfer of rights, it sets in motion processes that can lead to enhanced understanding and cooperation, improved public consultation and participation, and better resource management.

4.1.7 Traditional Use and Occupation of the Land

The land in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area has always had a strong social, spiritual and cultural significance for its human residents, because the majority Aboriginal cultures have evolved over a long time in this area. The location and structure of communities, the uses of land and resources, and the ways in which people regard their surroundings is all tied, in a variety of ways, to the culture of the people of the area.

The current community structure of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area is a relatively recent feature of the region. One hundred years ago, while the existing communities of the area all existed to one degree or another, the people of the region were much more spread out on the land. In addition, people moved about more in harmony with traditional seasonal needs and opportunities.

A study of traditional use has shown that the Reindeer River, from Reindeer Lake to the junction with the Churchill River was relatively well populated in recent times, although today the only permanent community is at Southend Reindeer where the river leaves the lake. In the years immediately after World War II, approximately 500 people lived in seven locations along the approximate 100 km length of Reindeer River. These communities were largely family groups: Morins and McCallums at Fafard Lake, Highways At Royal Lake and Steephill Lake, Dorions between Steephill Lake and The Two Rivers, Michels at the Two Rivers, and Ballantynes and Custers at the junction with the Churchill River at Iskwatam Lake.

These locations all have Cree names that endure from these times. The family groups all had traditional lands in those areas defined by the lakes they fished and the traplines they tended in the winter. As well, they travelled extensively up and down the river seasonally to partake in other social and resource harvesting activities. The structure of this society is preserved today in the ownership of traplines, cabins, and ongoing seasonal camp locations.

Resource use in the PBCN traditional territories covered all of the activities that a self-sufficient population required to survive in this northern environment. Trapping for furs must have began in the earliest times to produce domestic articles for the home, clothing, decoration, and trade with other First Nations. Later, this fur trade continued and expanded with the white companies who exported the furs in exchange for a wide variety of trade goods. Trapping remains an important part of life for many members of PBCN, and a link for all to the traditions of days gone by.

Hunting has been a way of life for First Nations people that has continued since time immemorial. The protection of this way of life was guaranteed by the Treaties, and the Treaties are protected by the Constitution. Hunting and the food and other products it produces are still important to PBCN members in the area as it has always been.

Fishing ranks with hunting as a prime means of sustenance, and a traditional activity carried on by all generations. Like hunting, fishing rights are protected by Treaty, and the Constitution. Fishing for families and communities continues to be an important source of food, as well as a local economic activity through commercial fishing enterprises, and lately through tourist outfitting for sports fishing.

Gathering is a generic term for a wide variety of activities in the forest which have traditionally supported the continuance of life and culture. Gathering produced many of the needs that agriculture could not in a rough northern environment. Berries, roots, herbs, and other necessities were all found in the forest and served a wide variety of purposes from food, to medicine, to sacred and ceremonial uses. Gathering of many products of the forest is still important in the culture and community of PBCN.

While forestry was not apparently practised in ways comparable to today's industries, use of the trees was essential to the life of Cree people in the forest. Shelter (cabins and tent frames), transportation (sleds, snowshoes and canoes), tools (arrows and spears), implements (baskets, handles), and many other necessities of life came from the trees of the forest, as well as fuel to cook food and heat dwellings.

The connection between PBCN members and the forest of their home lands runs deep. As a culture that developed in these forests, using and depending on the various products and expert knowledge of how to use them has allowed life to continue and flourish. First Nations have always lived in harmony with nature, and learned to respect the land and resources on which their lives depended.

All of these traditional activities survive today in modern form, and are practised to varying degrees by all the people of the area, regardless of their place of origin before moving to the Amisk-Atik area. Hunting, fishing and trapping, plus the gathering of berries and other plant products all continue today, using modern forms of motorized access and processing. As well, local people of all communities enjoy the natural landscape for its own beauty and challenges in terms of boating, snowmobiling and other popular recreational activities.

4.1.8 Subsistence Hunting/Fishing/Trapping/Gathering

Subsistence use of the natural environment can provide all, or a substantial portion of a person's daily intake of food. Hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering for food is a significant economic offset for Aboriginal residents. Unemployment in most northern communities is still very high. Transportation costs mean that even basic foods are much more expensive than in larger communities or those farther south. Everyone relies, to some extent, on subsistence directly from the resources of the area.

Economic studies have attempted to record the annual subsistence harvest of a northern community (Tobias, 1988). In Tobias' study of the subsistence harvest by the residents of Pinehouse, he found that the 700 village residents harvested 84,455 kg of wild meat during 1983-84. One way to estimate the economic impact of this harvest is to calculate the store cost of purchasing meat of similar quality. This is a significant value in terms of both nutrition and economic savings.

The subsistence harvest of wild meat and other foods (berries, mushrooms, etc.) is substantial and has a value to many residents of the Amisk-Atik Planning area. The traditional use of country foods has a positive economic impact on northern residents, and if access or supply was reduced, there would be negative economic repercussions. Even more, food from the land is an important element of personal and community health, both in terms of nutrition and continuing cultural traditions. The culture and traditions of PBCN peoples are founded in the forest, and bound to the forest. People from other cultures and homelands have also adopted this land as their own for its beauty and wealth of natural resources. Together they will continue to be stewards of the land, and wise users of its bounty in the future, as they have always done.

CHAPTER 5: PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED WITH THE AMISK-ATIK LAND USE PLAN

There are several levels of government involved with various aspects of a land use plan. Following are the provincial and federal government departments that are involved with resource management and land use for the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan. Appendix 9 lists the provincial and federal legislation that effects the land use plan and Appendix 10 lists the provincial and federal related policies and guidelines.

5.1 Government Organizations and Interests

5.1.1 Provincial Government Departmental Organizations

Several departments and agencies are involved with resource management and land use. Table 5.1 lists the department or agency, and its main area of impact.

Table 5.1 Provincial Agencies Involved with Resource Management and Land Use

Department/Agency	Branch	Responsibility
Environment and Resource Management	Environmental Assessment	Coordinates provincial review and evaluations of environmental impacts of proposed developments.
	Environmental Protection	Develops provincial policies and programs related to protection of air, water and soils.
	Fish and Wildlife	Develops and manages provincial fish and wildlife policies and programs.
	Forest Ecosystems	Develops and manages provincial integrated forest resource management programs and policies.
	Fire Management And Forest Protection	Provides and coordinates provincial forest fire management activities.
	Information Management	Provides resource data management services.
	Parks and Facilities	Develops and manages programs and policies for provincial and regional parks.
	Regional Operations	Delivers and manages all SE policies and programs.
	Sustainable Land	Develops provincial land management policies

Department/Agency	Branch	Responsibility
	Management	and programs.
Agriculture and Food	N/A	Promotes sustainable use of lands and resources used for agricultural production.
Industry and Resources	Mines Branch	Management of the Crown mineral, oil and gas resources through legislation and related policies. Issuance of mineral and oil and gas dispositions for exploration and development. Collection of fees and royalties for the province. Research, collection, organization, and distribution of information on the geoscience, non-renewable resources, and exploration and production activity for the province. Promote full and responsible development of Saskatchewan's energy and mineral resources.
Highways and Transportation	N/A	Develops roads and infrastructure. Manages aggregate resources for transportation purposes.
Municipal Government	Municipal Development	Provides technical and advisory support to municipalities for community planning and governance. Administers the subdivision approval process and use of dedicated lands.
	Heritage	Administers *The Heritage Property Act*, which facilitates heritage resource management and development. Through the Archaeological Resource Management Program, developments are routinely reviewed for possible heritage concerns.

Department/Agency	Branch	Responsibility
Northern Affairs	Policy, Planning, and Research Division	Undertakes research, planning, and policy development that better enable northerners to identify and participate in northern development.
	Resource and Industrial Development Division	Addresses northern interests related to the development of northern resources and industries. This Division administers programs such as the following: *Northern Mines Monitoring Secretariat* and *Environmental Quality Committees:* Provide information to communities on uranium mine site developments and activities; also, provide a forum to ensure the considerations of northerners in the way in which uranium mine development occurs in northern Saskatchewan. *Mineral Surface Lease Agreements*: Negotiate, monitor and administer Mine Surface Lease Agreements in northern Saskatchewan on behalf of provincial government departments. Surface leases contain Human Resource Development Agreements.
	Economic and Community Development	Provides financial and business support services to northern entrepreneurs, businesses, co-operatives and other organizations. These services include the identification and evaluation of business opportunities, business plan development, financing through the Northern Development Fund and other sources, organizational development, management counselling, business skills training, and other advisory services. Programs administered by this Division include the *Northern Development Fund, the Commercial Fishing Freight Subsidy and Price Support Program*, and the annual *Northern Saskatchewan Business Opportunity Forum.*
Sask Power	N/A	Operates power generation facilities and power lines.
Tourism Saskatchewan	Product Development	Plans and develops tourism destination areas.
Saskatchewan Wetland Conservation Corporation	N/A	Manages wetlands and waterfowl habitat.

5.1.2 Relevant Federal Government Department and Agency Interests and Responsibilities

Table 5.2 lists the federal government departments and agencies that are involved in resource management.

Table 5.2 Federal Agencies Involved in Resource Management

Department/Agency	Responsibility/Goals
Environment Canada	Preserve and enhance quality of the natural environment and renewable resources, including migratory birds, other non-domestic flora and fauna, and water; carry out meteorology; and coordinate federal environmental policies and programs.
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	Through administration of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, provide effective means of integrating environmental factors into federal planning and decision-making while taking into account public values and the goal of sustainable development.
Agriculture and Agrifood Canada	To promote and support a growing, competitive, market-oriented agriculture and agrifood industry, which achieves farm financial security, environmental sustainability, and a safe, high quality food supply.
Fisheries and Oceans	Develop and administer policies and programs in support of Canada's economic, ecological and scientific interests in oceans and freshwater fish habitat, for conservation and sustained utilization of Canada's fisheries resources in marine and inland waters, and for safe, effective and environmentally sound marine services responsive to the needs of Canadians.
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	Meet the federal government's constitutional, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations and the North, including sustainable development of natural resources (e.g. mining, oil and gas, forestry and water).
National Round Table on the Environment and Economy	Identify, explain and promote, in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, principles and practices of sustainable development.
Natural Resources Canada	Provide expert scientific and economic knowledge to Canadians, and promote sustainable development and use of Canada's natural resources and competitiveness of the energy, forest, mining, geomatic and geoscience sectors.
Transport Canada	Ensure high standards for a safe transportation system, contribute to Canada's prosperity, and protect the physical environment by evaluating the impacts of policy and regulatory decisions on the environment and promoting and meeting environmental standards.

CHAPTER 6: THE LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 The Planning Process

There are basic steps common to any land use planning process. These steps are outlined in Appendix 1. This basic planning process has been adapted for use in the development of this land use plan. This specific planning process has entailed the following steps.

- Plan Initiation
- Information and Issue Gathering
- Meetings
- Draft Plan Preparation
- Draft Plan Review
- Plan Revision and Approval
- Plan Implementation.

- **Step One - Plan Initiation:** In September 1994, Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) signed a Partnership Agreement for the purposes of developing a cooperative approach to the management of land and resources in the Amisk-Atik area. The area encompassed in this agreement consists of those lands traditionally used in northeastern Saskatchewan by the PBCN. Subsequent discussion between these two parties identified an opportunity to enhance economic development in this area. As such, a development plan was submitted to the provincial government identifying the utilization of forest resources as a means to generate significant benefits not only for the provincial economy, but also for the residents of the Amisk-Atik area.

  The first efforts taken towards the development of an integrated forest land use plan for the Amisk-Atik area occurred in September 1995. A team of provincial government and Peter Ballantyne representatives initiated a process of public consultation with local PBCN and municipal communities situated within the plan area. These consultations resulted in the creation of an organizational structure that allowed for ongoing public consultation at both the local and regional level. Local advisory boards were established in Creighton, Denare Beach, Pelican Narrows, Jan Lake, Deschambault Lake, and Southend-Reindeer Lake. In some of these communities, the existing co-management board formed the local advisory board. In Sandy Bay, Sturgeon Landing, Brabant Lake, Kinoosao, and Cumberland House, local boards were not established. However, the leaders of these communities were kept informed as to the ongoing progress of the development of the land use plan, and public meetings about the planning process were held as needed and when requested by the communities.

In addition to the local boards, a regional advisory board was also created. Membership of this regional body consisted of representatives of the local boards and communities, various provincial government agencies, the mining and forestry industries, and other non-government groups like the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Aboriginal Women's Council. The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board membership is presented in more detail in Appendix 2.

- **Step 2 - Information and Issue Gathering**

A multi-disciplinary technical planning team was established, with representatives from SE's Sustainable Lands Management Branch and Shield EcoRegion, Saskatchewan Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, Culture, and Housing, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, Saskatchewan Northern Affairs, and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. The membership of the Technical Planning Team is outlined in Appendix 2. A draft concept plan that included descriptive information about the planning area's resources and their use was prepared in 1995. The concept plan was distributed at the first round of public meetings in 1997.

Information collected at initial community meetings outlined the key land and resource management issues and concerns in the Amisk-Atik area. Subsequently, local issues were separated from those of a more regional nature. The local issues were addressed at the local advisory board levels, while the regional issues were used to create a Master Issue List that was used as the basis for the discussion and decision-making efforts of the Regional Advisory Board.

Throughout the planning process, resource people from within and outside of the provincial government provided their expertise to assist with the planning process. Advice and information was provided for such areas of concern as forestry, mining, fish and wildlife, traditional resource use, medicinal plants, Treaty Rights, Treaty Land Entitlement process and selections, archaeology, outfitting, wild rice, trapping, recreation, tourism, and hydro development.

- **Step 3 - Meetings**

During 1997, public meetings were conducted in the communities of the Amisk-Atik area for the purpose of introducing the land use planning process to local residents. Local and regional advisory board meetings were held on a monthly basis. The first regional advisory board meeting was held on February 2 and 3, 1998. These regional meetings were usually 2-3 days in duration. Prior to the initial regional meeting, numerous local advisory board meetings had been conducted. A process was established to ensure that there was ongoing, two-way communication between the local and regional boards. Issues discussed at the local tables were brought to the regional board and, conversely, the items discussed and the recommendations made at the regional table were brought back to the local level.

All local and regional advisory board meetings were open to the public. Meetings, especially those at the local level, were scheduled to accommodate the traditional lifestyle and the seasonal nature of local businesses (e.g., outfitting, commercial fishing).

Decisions made by the regional advisory board were made on the basis of group consensus (i.e., mutual agreement, all members being able to live with the decision). These decisions are reflected in the management guidelines presented in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Management Plan. Appendix 3 contains the Terms of Reference used by the Regional Advisory Board.

- **Step 4 - Draft Plan Preparation**
  The draft land use plan was prepared by the Technical Planning Team. The background information and management directives presented have been compiled using both scientific data and the input provided by the local and regional advisory boards.

- **Step 5 - Draft Plan Review**
  The draft plan was presented to the Regional Advisory Board, government agencies, Local Advisory Boards, and the general public for review, and to receive recommendations for revisions. See Appendix 18 for a list of the public meetings held for plan review and a summary of public comments.

- **Step 6 - Plan Revision and Approval**
  Based on the comments received during the review process, amendments were made to the draft plan. The revised plan required submission to the Government of Saskatchewan for final approval. An independent review of the plan will be done to advise the Minister how effectively the plan meets the requirements of Section 15 of the Forest Resources Management Act.

- **Step 7 - Plan Implementation, Monitoring and Review**
  Implementation of the plan is the final step in the planning process. During implementation, revisions, and amendments based on experience may be made regularly. The plan is required to be reviewed every five years.

6.2 Public Involvement in the Land Use Planning Process

The Technical Planning Team recognized that the public have perspectives, knowledge, and values that can contribute significantly to the land use planning process. Every reasonable effort was made to involve the public as early as possible and throughout the planning process. Various approaches were used to involve the public.

6.3 Opportunities for Public Input

Public meetings were held at different times during the land use planning process. Initially, in 1997, meetings were held to introduce the land use planning process to residents of the area. During the summer and fall of 1999, public meetings were conducted to provide the public with an update of the land use planning process. I Information was also provided on the Five Year Term Supply Licence application being prepared by the Mee-Toos Forest Products Limited Partnership.

The 2000 public meetings presented the draft plan to the public for their review and comments, prior to finalization of the plan.

Newsletters, newspapers, and community television and radio advertisements were used to invite the general public to attend the public meetings and to ensure that all interested parties were aware of the intent to develop and implement an integrated land use plan. A brochure was developed and distributed to all communities in the planning area and SE offices located throughout the Province. (A copy of this brochure is presented in Appendix 17).

A full page ad was placed in the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation newspaper "Acimowin", Monday, December 21, 1998, Volume 5, Number 1, Page 7, to ensure First Nations people in the plan area were aware of the plan development and encouraged to participate. The December 1999 issue of "Acimowin" had extensive coverage of the land use planning process and the forestry development plans from many perspectives.

Contact names were listed providing access for additional information if required. Information was provided and requested on a monthly basis, utilizing the local representatives on the Regional Advisory Board as direct links to the people in the area they represent. Government personnel and representatives of PBCN, initiated and assisted local representatives to arrange meetings, and provided information and services whenever possible.

Appendix 4 provides a summary of the public meetings held to gather input from people living in and around the planning area.

6.4 Aboriginal Participation

The Technical Planning Team recognized that lands within the planning area have special significance to Aboriginal peoples, especially the members of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. The Planning Team further recognized that the legal status of Aboriginal peoples is unique, that Aboriginal and Treaty Rights are protected , and that the Aboriginal peoples possess special knowledge and insights concerning sustainable land management derived from traditional practices and experience. Aboriginal forest users and communities thus required particular consideration in the public participation process.

Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

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Appendix 2 Regional Advisory Board Members and Technical Planning Team Members
Appendix 3 Regional Advisory Board Terms of Reference
Appendix 4 Summary of Regional Advisory Board and Plan Development Public Meetings
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GLOSSARY

adaptive management - management practices that are monitored, evaluated, and adjusted (as required), based on current knowledge and understandings.

advisory board - a diverse group of people from the local community who have dedicated time and energy to the completion of this land use plan. The board's function is to bring these people together and, through open discussion of land use issues, help one another understand others' concerns and land use management needs. Consensus-based recommendations have resulted from these discussions.

aesthetics - the natural beauty of the environment.

annual allowable cut (**AAC**) - an expression of the maximum volume of timber that may be harvested each year from an area of land.

annual operating plan (AOP) - a one year forestry plan prepared in conjunction with a licence; usually contains operating requirements.

agriculture - agriculture includes activities such as cultivation and production of crops, dairying, raising poultry, and gardening. Activity is not limited to commercial enterprises and can include raising animals such as horses for personal enjoyment.

base metal - any of the common and more chemically active metals, eg. Copper, zinc, nickel.

benchmark - something that serves as a standard by which others may be measured.

berm - an artificial ridge or embankment, as used in decommissioning roads.

biological diversity (**biodiversity**) - the variety of different forms of life, including the variety of genes, species, and ecosystems.

biota - the animal and plant life of a region.

boreal forest - the forest of northern regions, dominated by spruce, fir, pine, larch, poplar, and birch.

browse - leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs, used as food by plant-eating animals.

B-train - a combination of vehicles composed of a tractor and a semi-trailer towing another semi-trailer, attached to a fifth wheel, mounted on the rear of the first semi-trailer.

clearcutting - harvesting of all merchantable trees from an area of land.

co-management - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, co-management is a way for the Department and stakeholders to work cooperatively to undertake integrated resource management. Inclusiveness, or involvement of all stakeholders, is key to co-management. The department and stakeholders share planning and decision-making as well as ownership of the process. The form co-management takes depends on types and numbers of stakeholders, objectives of the process, resource-specific factors, allocation methods, or changing circumstances.

commercial development - enterprises to be used exclusively for any enterprise directed to and for the purpose of economic or material gain.

conifer - trees that bear cones and have needle-like leaves.

consensus - all those who have a stake in the outcome reach mutual agreement in sentiment or belief on actions and outcomes that resolve or advance issues related to environmental, social, and economic sustainability.

Cretaceous - the geologic period covering the time span of 65 to 135 million years ago.

Crown land - land under the tenure of the provincial or federal government.

cutover - an area of forest land from which some or all of the timber has been recently cut.

deciduous - trees that drop their leaves.

development - the carrying out of any building, engineering, mining, or other operations in, on, or over land or the making of any material change in the use or intensity of use of any building or land.

dolomite - mineral or rock of calcium magnesium carbonate.

ecological integrity - the structure and function of the ecosystem are unimpaired by human-caused stresses, the native species are present at viable population levels.

ecological land classification (**ELC**) - a system by which land units are identified and mapped, based on ecological features such as climate, soil, and vegetation.

ecological region (**ecoregion**) - a relatively large area of land characterized by a distinctive regional climate as expressed by general patterns of vegetation.

ecosystem - an area of land or water, considered in relation to all of its components (soil, water, air, plants, animals, microbes) and the interactions among them. A forest stand is an ecosystem if it is viewed as an interacting system of all of these components, and not just as a group of trees.

ecosystem health - a natural balance of physical, chemical, and biological components that make up the ecosystem.

ecotourism - tourism based on experiencing and learning about natural ecosystems, based on education of and non-consumptive use of natural resources.

ecozone - a broad-scale ecological unit that is based on patterns that include climate, geography, and ecological diversity. The ecozone lies at the top of the ecological hierarchy.

endangered species - a species that faces threats that may lead to its extinction in a short time.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - a procedure outlining a development being proposed, its anticipated effects, alternative steps to be taken, and mitigation of undesirable environmental effects.

even-aged - describes a forest stand in which trees are of approximately the same age.

exotic - describes a species not native to a given area, introduced from elsewhere.

fen - a wetland with a peat substrate (>40 cm) and a very slow internal flow of water at or above the surface; providing some nutrients and oxygen; and supporting mosses, sedges, shrubs, and sometimes a sparse tree cover of mostly tamarack and some black spruce.

fertilization - application of fertilizers to increase productivity.

forbs - a non-grasslike herbaceous plant (lacking a woody stem).

full supply line - is the line depicting the high water level of the reservoir that would be required for the operation of a hydro electric project.

Forest Management Agreement (FMA) - agreement between the Province of Saskatchewan and a forest company to give the company long-term access to timber as well as management responsibilities on a specified area of land.

geographic information system (GIS) - a computer system used to store and analyze map information.

hardwood - broad-leaved trees; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Hardwoods belong to the botanical group *Angiospermae* and are the dominant type of tree in a deciduous forest.

Harvest Volume Schedule (HVS) - the amount of wood fibre that can be harvested annually from the existing forest without jeopardizing long-run sustainability of the timber supply.

integrated resource management (IRM) - management of the whole forest ecosystem, which allows for a broad range of resource uses, and gives all affected parties the opportunity to be involved in management planning.

intensive management - management with relatively high investment of time and money per unit area; intensive silviculture generally implies such things as intensive site preparation, use of genetically improved planting stock, weeding, thinning, or pruning.

landscape - an area of land which includes a variety of interconnected ecosystems. For example, an area with aspen forest on the uplands and sedge meadows in the depression.

loam - a soil containing a mixture of sand, silt, and clay.

mature - describes a tree or stand that is sufficiently developed to be harvestable.

merchantable - describes a tree or stand that has attained sufficient size, quality, and/or volume to make it suitable (in economic terms) for harvesting.

metamorphosed - the process where a rock is changed through heat and pressure into a new, chemically different rock.

mitigation - to reduce the severity of or eliminate negative impacts resulting from a particular activity.

mixedwood - forest stand with both hardwoods and softwoods present in significant amounts.

not satisfactorily restocked (**NSR**) - describes productive forest land on which the forest has been cut or burned and not adequately regenerated.

Ordovician - the geologic period covering the time span of 440 to 500 million years ago.

partnerships - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, partnerships are formed between the department and stakeholders to work toward a common goal. Three kinds of partnerships, or combinations among them, are most often used:

- ***consultative partnerships*** - where there is discussion on an issue, plus shared responsibility for accountability, commitment, integrity, and outcome.
- ***task partnerships*** - where there is shared work in developing a product, program, or process.
- ***sponsorships or contributory partnerships*** - where shared finances result in a shared product or program.

partial cutting - any timber harvest in which only part of the stand is cut.

Phanerozoic - that part of time represented by rocks in which life is abundant. 545 million years ago and younger.

planting - establishing a forest stand by setting out seedlings, transplants, or cuttings.

Precambrian - all geologic time, and its corresponding rocks, before the phanerozoic. 545 million years ago and older.

productive forest land (or **timber-productive land**) - land capable of producing merchantable stands of timber within a "reasonable length of time".

protected area - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, a geographically defined area or site which is designated in legislation and restricted from general use by the public for a conservation purpose.

pruning - removal of live or dead branches from standing trees.

RAB - The Regional Advisory Board is a group of people designated to represent their communities and the wishes of their local advisory boards.

RAN - Representative Area Network is composed of lands and waters selected and designated to represent the natural and ecological and biological diversity of the province and managed to retain that diversity. RANs act both as reservoirs of biological diversity and benchmarks for comparison with the more heavily utilized landscape.

rare species - a species with a small population, but not necessarily declining or in danger of extinction.

regeneration - renewal of a forest stand (e.g. establishment of new young trees) by natural or artificial means.

resource - generally, any supply of something that can be useful for economic, social, cultural, or aesthetic purposes.

riparian zone - Riparian areas are the interface between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems which display sharp gradients of plant communities, ecological processes, and environmental factors. The riparian zone not only provides a corridor for the movement and maintenance of animals but largely influences the adjacent aquatic environment by absorbing solar radiation, retaining dissolved nutrients and terrestrial particulate inputs, and subsequently determining aquatic invertebrate and vertebrate populations. Proper delineation of riparian areas incorporates an assessment of vegetative, edaphic, topographic, and hydrologic criteria (Gregory et al 1991).

rotation - the planned number of years between the regeneration of a forest stand and its final harvest.

scarification - loosening the topsoil or breaking up the forest floor in preparation for regeneration by natural or artificial seeding.

sedimentary - any rock composed of sediments, animal remains, or chemicals previously held in solution.

seeding - establishing a forest stand by sowing of seeds.

selection cutting - uneven-aged silvicultural system in which trees are removed individually or in small groups, continuously or at relatively short intervals.

shorelands - the land between high and low water marks that adjoins land to water.

silviculture - the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, growth, and quality of forest stands to achieve management objectives.

site - an area of land characterized by the climatic, soil, and biological factors that determine its suitability and productivity for particular tree species and vegetation types. For example, a dry sand plain which supports jack pine-lichen vegetation with low productivity.

site preparation - treatment (mechanical, chemical, fire, or hand) that modifies the site to provide favourable conditions for natural or artificial regeneration.

softwood - cone-bearing trees with needles or scale-like leaves; also refers to the wood produced by these trees. Softwoods belong to the botanical group *Gymnospermae* and are the predominate tree type in coniferous forests.

stakeholders - in Saskatchewan Environment policy, people or groups with an interest or 'stake' in what the department does. Stakeholders include all people, groups, or organizations that are directly influenced by actions of SE, or whose actions have an influence on the department.

stand - a patch of forest which is fairly uniform in species composition and distribution of tree heights and ages.

subsistence use - use of forest resources (e.g. fish and game, food and medicinal plants, fuelwood and building timber) by local people for personal consumption.

succession - the sequence of stages through which an ecosystem develops, following some disturbance which alters part or all of the previous ecosystem. For example, after a fire burns a mature forest, the ecosystem passes through a series of successional stages leading up to a new mature forest.

sustainable development - a general approach to combining economic development with environmental protection that has been describes as "...use of resources in a way that satisfies the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their needs".

sustainable management - management to maintain and enhance the long-term ecological integrity of forest ecosystems, while providing economic, social, cultural, and spiritual opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

term supply licence (TSL) - is a licence granted by the Minister of Saskatchewan Environment conferring the right to harvest specified forest products, pursuant to section 42 of the Forest Resources Management Act. The term for the licence is two to ten years.

threatened species - species that are declining in numbers, to the point that there is a concern about possible extinction of that species.

till - material deposited by glaciers and ice sheets without modification by any other means of transportation.

tourism - the enhancement of natural features by providing goods and services attracting visitors to the area.

traditional territories - lands that were historically used by particular Aboriginal peoples prior to European settlement.

uneven-aged - describes a forest stand in which intermingling trees differ markedly in age.

water bodies - collections of water such as lakes, sloughs, rivers, or creeks, and do not necessarily have to contain fish.

zero impact mineral exploration - mineral exploration activities that do not significantly disturb the natural landscape. This includes such activities as: geological mapping, prospecting, surveying, flagged reference lines, geochemical sampling by hand (soil, stream sediment, water, lake sediment, rock), and airborne and hand-held ground geophysical surveying. Excluded activities would include: cut reference and grid lines, road or trail construction, trenching or stripping activities, geochemical sampling and geophysical surveying with tracked or wheeled equipment, and diamond drilling.

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Amisk-Atik
Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

Appendices

Amisk-Atik integrated Forest Land Use Plan

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Appendix 1: MANAGEMENT ISSUES & THE PLANNING PROCESS

A - Management Issues Identified by the Regional Advisory Board

ISSUE LIST

Management Zones/Protection & Historic Sites (see chapter 2 of Management Plan)

1. Proposed protected areas (burial sites, rock painting sites, recreation sites, etc.) & having input on conditions placed on protected areas.
2. Lack of management designation of the Churchill River (Frog Portage to MB border).
3. Protection of the Sturgeon-weir River (Maligne Lake to Amisk Lake).
4. Need for more Wilderness areas (RAN sites to be identified).
5. Need to identify locations of heritage sites, cultural sites, burial grounds, historical archaeological sites (e.g. Nistum Lake site), and ensure their protection.

Environmental Protection (see section 3.1 of Management Plan)

6. Ensuring water quality is maintained.
7. Ground water protection from contamination.
8. Maintaining healthy streams.
9. Location and management of garbage and dumps.
10. Sewage disposal; sewer and water treatment facilities.
11. Chemical vegetation control programs not being monitored.

Traditional Land Use (see section 3.3 of Management Plan)

12. Lack of local involvement in determining criteria for building Traditional Resource Use cabins.

Fisheries Management (see section 3.4 of Management Plan)

13. Fish Conservation (i.e., lack of management plans for lakes; Identification and protection of spawning areas).
14. Process for fisheries allocation and monitoring (lack of information on what governs the decision).
15. Conflict between anglers and commercial fishermen (low fish allocations on lakes); Deschambault Lake as an example.
16. Lack of current resource population data (forest inventory, animal populations, fish, etc.); this information is required to manage and protect the resource properly (science based decisions).

Wildlife Management (see section 3.5 of Management Plan)

17. Need for better protection of wildlife populations (including special habitat areas for caribou).
18. Lack of current resource population data (forest inventory, animal populations, fish, etc.); this information is required to manage and protect the resource properly (science based decisions).
19. Lack of game corridors on all roads.

Forestry (see section 3.6 of Management Plan)

20. Insufficient forest fire, insect, and disease control.
21. Concern of backlog of areas to be reforested.
22. Improvement of forest utilization standards; concern with waste products; lack of public information on acceptable forestry practices.
23. Need for additional SE personnel to support proper management of the forest resource.
24. Need to ensure a long term commitment to the resource for small operators.
25. Coordination of firewood salvage so areas are cleaned up quicker so regeneration can happen, and roads decommissioned sooner.
26. Develop policy or guidelines about harvesting within buffer zones (around cabins, communities, etc.).
27. Concern about lack of planning and consultation with mineral and forestry developments.
28. Concern about Treaty Land Entitlement areas being affected by forestry operations.
29. Competition for the resource between forestry companies and users of special forest products.
30. Lack of current resource population data (forest inventory, animal populations, fish, etc.); this information is required to manage and protect the resource properly (science based decisions).
31. Lack of long term road planning and access management

Mineral Exploration and Mine Development (see section 3.7 of Management Plan)

32. Concern involving areas withdrawn from mining and exploration.
33. Lack of compensation for other forest users impacted by development (e.g., trappers).
34. Lack of consultation about mineral exploration.

Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development (see section 3.8 of Management Plan)

35. Lack of planning required, no buffers required.
36. Lack of decommissioning of existing gravel pits.

Infrastructure Development (see section 3.9 of Management Plan)

Roads

37. Location of future roads associated with developments (potential future crossing of the Churchill River, road to Cumberland House, road along Sturgeon-Weir River, other forestry & mining roads, etc.)
38. Road improvement required - upgrading, access, etc.
39. Lack of infrastructure in the Amisk-Atik
40. Nuisance beavers causing damage to roads

Development (see section 3.10 of Management Plan)

Cabins

41. Zone A freeze restricting recreational cabin development (in effect until plan is complete)
42. Issuance of leases and impacts on traditional use area

Wild Rice

43. Lack of information and research on the effects of wild rice on the ecosystem (e.g., affect on fish).

Hydro Electric Development

44. Flooding, fluctuating water levels (including issue of damage, lack of consultation and compensation)
45. Lack of public involvement in locating new Hydro Dams

Recreation (see section 3.11 of Management Plan)

46. Lack of infrastructure at recreation sites
47. Lack of monitoring of and information on back country campsites
48. Identification of recreational snowmobile trail system (connections between systems) to relieve pressure on trapping trails.

Tourism (see section 3.12 of Management Plan)

49. Limited promotion of Tourism in the Amisk-Atik area.
50. Lack of guidelines for Eco-tourism.

Economic Development (see section 3.13 of Management Plan)

51. Lack of employment in the Amisk-Atik area.
52. Lack of value-added industries in the Amisk-Atik area.

Enforcement (see section 3.14 of Management Plan)

53. Need a stronger presence of Conservation Officers to enforce environmental protection; need for more native Conservation Officers.

Education (see section 3.15 of Management Plan)

54. Limited education opportunities for students and the public to learn about environmental health, resource management and sustainability

Compensation (see section 3.16 of Management Plan)

55. Lack of compensation by industry to trappers and other affected resource users

Consultation (see section 3.17 of Management Plan)

56. Lack of consultation with local people by government and industry on development proposals.

Monitoring (see section 3.18 of Management Plan)

57. Lack of a process or strategy for monitoring activities in the Amisk-Atik area

Appendix 1: MANAGEMENT ISSUES & THE PLANNING PROCESS

B: General Land Use Planning Process

There are several basic stages or steps to land use planning. These steps can be summarized as the following: (1) initiating the plan; (2) developing the plan; (3) finalizing the plan; (4) implementing the plan; and (5) monitoring the plan.

1. Initiating the Plan

a. Preliminary Issue Analysis and Area Selection

Government reflects internally and strategically on Crown land management issues and resultant planning priorities and gains support through consultation. Priority planning area boundaries are proposed (e.g. ecosystems) that will later be confirmed or refined as the process proceeds.

b. Initiate Formal Public Involvement

Users are contacted and invited to participate on local and/or regional advisory boards. Terms of reference are developed for advisory boards, local residents, and interest group representatives. These terms of reference must document how decisions will be made (e.g. consensus or majority vote), as well as outline how the board(s) will resolve conflicts and interact with the media. Issues and concerns of the public, interest groups, and government agencies are collectively identified.

2. Developing the Plan

a. Collecting, Sharing, and Analyzing Information

Technical staff (e.g. staff of government, industry, and non-government organizations) assemble information on land uses, resources and inherent capabilities of the area, respecting both scientific data and local knowledge. Some focused field work may be necessary to fill critical data gaps. All information is shared with participating users in order to examine the issues and concerns, and to identify opportunities and options. Analysis (e.g. cost-benefit analysis) of potential options may be undertaken. Information is also shared on an ongoing basis with the general public.

Development of the Draft Amisk-Atik IFLUP involved :

* maintaining and providing the opportunity for an ongoing consultation process between the Regional and Local Advisory Boards, general public, and special interest groups.
* development and agreement on a master issues list.
* designating areas as protected, sensitive, or general management zones that protect or allow for existing and future sustainable resource use.
*development of Regional Advisory Board consensus recommendations for identified issues and concerns.
*recommending operating guidelines for integrated and sustainable resource use for specific activities such as traditional resource use, mining exploration and forestry development.

3. Finalizing the Plan

a. Formulating and Approving a Plan

General discussion and negotiation leads to the development of a plan of action. Technical staff draft a plan. Failure to reach consensus requires more negotiation and innovation. Plan is redrafted if necessary. The plan, supported by consensus of users and government, is then submitted to the general public. If favourably received by the general public, the plan goes to provincial government for formal approval. If no consensus possible, alternative scenarios must be presented for government decision.

4. Implementing the Plan

A plan can be put into action with the help of planning commissions, partnerships, co-management agreements, or other formal agreements, which provide a vehicle for meaningful participation of local people and resource managers. A formal review process will be part of the implementation strategy. Mechanisms for resolutions of conflicts are also important.

5. Monitoring the Plan

Plan implementation is monitored by SE or other designated agents to ensure progress. Principle of flexible management should prevail. Effective monitoring can provide early information that leads to changes or amendments to the plan. The plan will be amended periodically to allow for new circumstances, knowledge, objectives, and other factors.

Appendix 2: AMISK-ATIK REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AND TECHNICAL PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

Regional Advisory Board Members:

Name	Organization/Community
Dan McKeachnie	Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA)
Eric Brown	SMA
Stephen West	SMA
Clyde Jones	Creighton Advisory Board
Steve Lane	Creighton Advisory Board
Stuart Mathieson	Creighton Advisory Board
Cathy Hynes	Creighton Advisory Board
June Markham	Creighton/Denare Beach Economic Development
Carl Lentowicz	Denare Beach Advisory Board
Guy Avison	Denare Beach Advisory Board
Ken Stirrett	Denare Beach Advisory Board
Gary Bloomfield	Deschambault Lake Advisory Board
Greg Seib	Deschambault Lake Advisory Board
Peter A. Beatty	Deschambault Lake Advisory Board
Ted Ohlsen	Deschambault Lake Advisory Board
Al Fenske	Jan Lake Advisory Board
Erik Nasselquist	Jan Lake Advisory Board
George Hawes	Jan Lake Advisory Board
Richard Koopman	Jan Lake Advisory Board
Doug Pearson	Pelican Narrows Advisory Board
Gilbert Merasty	Pelican Narrows Advisory Board
Bruce Ray	Sandy Bay Representative
Frank Richard	Sandy Bay Representative

Clifford Ray	Sandy Bay Representative
Garry Morin	Sandy Bay Representative
Hector Morin	Southend Advisory Board
William Dumas	Southend Advisory Board
Gertie Budd	Sturgeon Landing Representative
Howard Jobb	Sturgeon Landing Representative
Robert Budd	Sturgeon Landing Representative
Dougal Nabess	Cumberland House Representative
John Carriere	Cumberland House Representative
Raymond Chaboyer	Cumberland House Representative
Chief Pierre Sette	Cumberland House Representative
Mayor Dale McAuley	Cumberland House Representative
Leo Morin	Cumberland House Representative
Johnny Petryshyn	Brabant Lake Representative
Zoltan Molnar	Brabant Lake Representative
Elvena Pearson	Aboriginal Women's Council
Bev Morin	Aboriginal Women's Council
Dave Ferguson	SaskFor MacMillan Ltd.(Weyerhaeuser)
Brent Jones	SaskFor MacMillan Ltd.(Weyerhaeuser)
Henry Morin	Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)
Chief Ron Michel	PBCN
Alan Appleby	PBCN Consultant
Brad Bennett	Ainsworth Lumber Company
Jocelyn Baker	Saskatchewan Environment (SE)
Bob Reed	SE
Les Oystryk	SE
Murray Rogers	Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR)
Rick Bennett	SIR
Bruno LaFrance	SIR

Dorothy MacAuley	Northern Affairs
Dean Desjarlais	Northern Affairs
Carol Rowlett	Northern Affairs
Otto Olson	Kinoosao Representative
Shirley Olson	Kinoosao Representative

Technical Planning Team Members:

Name	Organization
Jocelyn Baker	SE
Bob Reed	SE
Rob Kidd	SE
Kim Clark	SE
Marla Jessup	SE
Brenda Parenteau	SE
Andrea Atkinson	SE
Les Oystryk	SE
Jeanette Krayetski	SE
Bill Sawchyn	SE
Henry Morin	PBCN
Alan Appleby	PBCN Consultant
Randy Braaten	Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs
Murray Rogers	SIR
Dorothy MacAuley	Northern Affairs)
Pam Schwann	Northern Affairs
Carol Rowlette	Northern Affairs

Appendix 3: AMISK-ATIK REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

A. Operating Guidelines

Mission Statement

The Regional Advisory Board will provide accurate information, describe issues or concerns for the area, work cooperatively and recommend solutions for implementation of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan.

Advisory Board Membership

- Members bring the interests of the local boards or public groups that they represent to discussions.
- Only one representative may speak. Alternates are welcome to attend meetings. Alternates stand in for the designated representative so they must be kept informed.
- Everyone must have an opportunity to be represented (identify groups to be on the Board).

Consensus Building

- Decisions will be based on consensus - meaning all members will fully explore issues, searching for solutions in a problem-solving and consensus-building effort so all accept the decision.
- Everyone will have an equal opportunity to speak.
- Members will respect the ideas, interests, and concerns of others, whether or not they agree.
- Discussions will focus on interests and concerns rather than positions and demands.
- Any member may abstain from a decision to avoid preventing consensus. Minutes will note these occasions.
- Four out of eight communities must be at the meeting for consensus decisions to be made and at least 80 percent community participation is required at the final review of the plan.

In the Event of Disagreement (No consensus)

- Participants who do not agree will provide reasons why their interests do not meet general consensus of the group; concerns will be noted in the minutes.
- Topics can be tabled for the next meeting when consensus cannot be reached. Members will consult their groups between meetings.
- The Minister will look at all concerns, including issues where consensus was not reached, when developing land use alternatives. Topics may be tabled until next meeting or until such date agreed to by consensus.
- If the Minister cannot follow the advice of the Board, rationale for a decision will be provided to the Board.

Issues

- Issues from community board minutes will be tabulated by SE, ratified by the community board, and forwarded to the Regional Board in written form.

Role of Chair

- The Board may select a Chair. A co-chair may be appointed if needed.
  - Responsibilities include: scheduling meetings, contacting members, providing agendas, holding meetings, circulating minutes to all board members.
- Agenda items requiring facilitation will be turned over to the facilitator.

Role of Facilitator

- The facilitator will be neutral and will assist in consensus building.

Observers at Meetings

- Observers are welcome, but must make prior arrangements with a board member.
- The general public will be allowed to attend meetings with the approval of all board members present.

Involvement of Others at Meetings

- Any involvement by other people is at the pleasure of the Board.
- The Board may request the views of groups not represented on the Board.

Media at Meetings and General Contact

- Meetings will be closed to the media, unless specifically invited and agreed to by all board members present.
- Press releases for the board will be drafted, approved, and released by the Board.
- Statements to the media by individual board members may express individual concerns, or concerns of the group that the member represents. Members will not identify positions or suggestions of the other board members in their discussions with the public or the media.
- Minutes, once approved, will be available to the public upon request.

B. Land Use Planning

Goal Statement

To participate in the development and implementation of a land use plan which will manage use of land and of renewable and non-renewable resources of the planning area in an integrated and environmentally sound manner to ensure ecological, economic, and social benefits for present and future generations.

Principles for Land Use Planning

The Integrated Land Use Plan will:

- maintain the health of the area's ecosystems by ensuring that:

  - renewable resource uses are sustainable;
  - non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound;
  - biological diversity is maintained;
  - negative effects from all uses are minimized.

- promote the needs and wishes of the people and communities living in and adjacent to the planning area, and in general, the people of Saskatchewan.
- respect the rights of Aboriginal people and all stakeholders.
- consider all values when making management decisions. Values may include, but are not limited to, ecological, social, economic, cultural, and spiritual.

- support land and resource uses which are sustainable - environmentally, economically, and socially.

- recognize and be consistent with current legislation and policies, and recommend changes where appropriate.
- be flexible to adapt, when required, to new circumstances and information.

Objectives of Land Use Planning

- to apply the principles of integrated resource management to all resource management activities in the planning area.
- to develop clear land use guidelines that allow for controlled, orderly development. These guidelines will specify:

    - what uses are allowed;
    - where these uses are allowed; and
    - development limits.

- to develop a mechanism to resolve conflicts among users. User education, negotiation, and separation of incompatible land uses are some options to be considered.
- to provide guidelines for public input into land use planning decisions.
- to develop standards to review and evaluate existing and future land uses.
- to identify and maintain ecologically representative or unique landscapes, and important cultural, recreational, and heritage sites.
- to set down procedures to monitor, evaluate, and revise the land use plan periodically.

Appendix 4: SUMMARY OF REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC MEETINGS

Regional Advisory Board Meetings	
Date	**Location**
February 2 & 3, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
March 2 & 3, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
May 5 & 6, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
June 2 & 3, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
July 7 & 8, 1998	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
August 4 & 5, 1998	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
September 1 & 2, 1998	Mista Nosayew Lodge, Pelican Narrows
September 29 & 30, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
November 2, 3, & 4, 1998	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
December 7, 8, & 9, 1998	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
January 11, 12, & 13, 1999	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
February 1, 2, & 3, 1999	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
March 1, 2, & 3, 1999	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
April 12, 13, 14, 1999	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
May 4 & 5, 1999	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
August 10, 1999	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
September 28 & 29, 1999	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
November 9 & 10, 1999	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
December 7 & 8, 1999	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
January 11 & 12, 2000	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
February 8 & 9, 2000	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach
March 7 & 8, 2000	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton
April 4 & 5, 2000	Rocky View Lodge, Denare Beach

May 2 & 3, 2000	RJ's Motel & Restaurant, Creighton

Local Advisory Board/Public Meetings

Date	Location
January 7, 1997	Cumberland House
March 3, 1997	Southend Reindeer
March 3, 1997	Sandy Bay
March 3, 1997	Pelican Narrows
March 4, 1997	Deschambault Lake
March 19, 1997	Creighton
May 30, 1997	Creighton
June 14, 1997	Deschambault Lake
June 23, 1997	Sandy Bay
June 25, 1997	Jan Lake
July 3, 1997	Jan Lake
August 11, 1997	Sandy Bay
August 12, 1997	Pelican Narrows
August 27, 1997	Sturgeon Landing
September 3, 1997	Pelican Narrows
September 9, 1997	Deschambault Lake
September 29, 1997	Pelican Narrows
September 30, 1997	Jan Lake
October 8, 1997	Denare Beach
October 9, 1997	Creighton
October 20, 1997	Sandy Bay
October 27, 1997	Pelican Narrows
November 3, 1997	Sandy Bay
November 6, 1997	Creighton

Local Advisory Board/Public Meetings	
November 17, 1997	Denare Beach
November 22, 1997	Deschambault Lake
November 24, 1997	Southend Reindeer
November 24, 1997	Pelican Narrows
December 3, 1997	Sandy Bay
December 4, 1997	Creighton
December 5, 1997	Denare Beach
December 15, 1997	Pelican Narrows
January 8, 1998	Creighton
January 9, 1998	Deschambault Lake
January 12, 1998	Denare Beach
January 15, 1998	Southend Reindeer
January 19, 1998	Pelican Narrows
January 25, 1998	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
February 5, 1998	Creighton
February 9, 1998	Pelican Narrows
February 13, 1998	Deschambault Lake
February 16, 1998	Denare Beach
February 23, 1998	Southend Reindeer
March 5, 1998	Creighton
March 9, 1998	Pelican Narrows
March 16, 1998	Denare Beach
March 30, 1998	Southend Reindeer
April 2, 1998	Creighton
April 22, 1998	Deschambault Lake
April 23, 1998	Pelican Narrows
April 27, 1998	Denare Beach

Local Advisory Board/Public Meetings	
May 7, 1998	Creighton
May 14, 1998	Pelican Narrows
May 19, 1998	Southend Reindeer
May 25, 1998	Denare Beach
May 27, 1998	Creighton
June 3, 1998	Southend Reindeer
June 23, 1998	Denare Beach
August 16, 1998	Southend Reindeer (fish/outfitting)
August 17, 1998	Denare Beach
August 19, 1998	Sandy Bay
August 20, 1998	Creighton
September 4, 1998	Deschambault Lake
September 8, 1998	Southend Reindeer
September 17, 1998	Pelican Narrows
September 21, 1998	Denare Beach
September 23, 1998	Creighton
October 16, 1998	Southend Reindeer
October 19, 1998	Denare Beach
October 21, 1998	Creighton
October 21, 1998	Pelican Narrows (fisheries)
October 22, 1998	Deschambault Lake
November 23, 1998	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
November 26, 1998	Deschambault Lake
December 14, 1998	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
January 7, 1999	Cumberland House
January 25, 1999	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
January 26, 1999	Pelican Narrows

Local Advisory Board/Public Meetings	
January 27, 1999	Southend Reindeer
February 4, 1999	Pelican Narrows
February 22, 1999	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
February 24, 1999	Pelican Narrows
March 4, 1999	Deschambault Lake
March 22, 1999	Creighton
April 26, 1999	Creighton
April 26, 1999	Southend Reindeer
May 17, 1999	Creighton
June 21, 1999	Creighton
June 29, 1999	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
June 30, 1999	Deschambault Lake
July 5, 1999	Jan Lake
July 26, 1999	Southend Reindeer
July 27, 1999	Kinoosao, (Ainsworth/PBCN invited, unable to attend)
August 6, 1999	Deschambault Lake
August 17, 1999	Jan Lake
August 23, 1999	Creighton/Denare Beach (combined)
October 4, 1999	Creighton
October 18, 1999	Creighton
November 8, 1999	Deschambault Lake
November 22, 1999	Creighton
November 22, 1999	Southend Reindeer
February 16, 2000	Pelican Narrows
February 17, 2000	Denare Beach (Trappers'/RAN meeting)
February 17, 2000	Sandy Bay
February 21, 2000	Creighton/Denare Beach (insects & fire)

Local Advisory Board/Public Meetings

February 22, 2000	Deschambault Lake
March 20, 2000	Creighton/Denare Beach
March 20, 2000	Southend Reindeer
March 20, 2000	Deschambault Lake
March 23, 2000	Sandy Bay (no attendees)
April 10, 2000	Pelican Narrows (insects & fire)
April 11, 2000	Creighton/Denare Beach
April 12, 2000	Deschambault Lake (insects & fire)

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Public Information Meetings

Date	Location/Communities Attended
April 26, 1994	Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay
April 27, 1994	Deschambault Lake, Creighton
April 28, 1994	Denare Beach
May 17, 1994	Deschambault Lake
July 13, 14, 1994	Southend Reindeer (Chief & Council and Community meeting)
August 17, 1994	Prince Albert (as part of Chief & Council meeting)
August 22, 1994	PBCN Members' meeting in Prince Albert
August 23, 1994	Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows
August 24, 1994	Denare Beach, Creighton
August 25, 1994	Deschambault Lake
August 26, 1994	Sturgeon Landing
September 29, 1994	Signing of the PBCN/SE partnership agreement
February 3, 1995	Prince Albert
February 6, 1995	Southend Reindeer Lake
February 7, 1995	Sandy Bay

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Public Information Meetings	
February 8, 1995	Sturgeon Landing
February 14, 1995	Creighton, Denare Beach
February 15, 1995	Pelican Narrows
April, 1995	Prince Albert, Chief & Council meeting: report on recent meetings
July 6, 1995	Cumberland House
September 14, 1995	Southend Reindeer Lake (forestry project presentations made)
September 18, 1995	Molanosa - Woodland Cree Bands (Montreal Lake, La Ronge, PBCN) gathering
February 1, 1996	Southend Reindeer Lake
February 5, 1996	Pelican Narrows
February 6, 1996	Sandy Bay
February 7, 1996	Deschambault Lake
February 9, 1996	Sturgeon Landing
February 20, 1996	Prince Albert - report to Chief & Council on foregoing meeting
March 7, 1996	meeting with elders and trappers of Lac La Ronge Indian Band and PBCN
May 28, 1996	Denare Beach - Chief & Council meeting (forestry project presentations)
July 4, 1996	Southend Reindeer Lake - meeting with other affected Bands and communities (Councillors, staff from PBCN and Hatchet Lake Band— Wollaston Lake— and public
July 11, 1996	Kinoosao (Reindeer Lake) - included people from Brochet, MB (forestry project presentations)
March 3, 1997	Southend Reindeer Lake
March 4, 1997	Deschambault Lake
March 5, 1997	Pelican Narrows
March 6, 1997	Sandy Bay

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation Public Information Meetings	
March 19, 1997	Denare Beach
March 20, 1997	Creighton
March 21, 1997	Sturgeon Landing
March 18, 1999	meeting with representatives of Lac La Ronge Band

TSL - PBCN/Ainsworth Meetings	
Date	**Communities Attended**
August 17, 1999	Deschambault Lake, Jan Lake
August 18, 1999	Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows
August 19, 1999	Creighton, Sturgeon Landing, Denare Beach
September 7, 1999	Deschambault Lake, Jan Lake, Creighton
September 8, 1999	Sandy Bay, Pelican Narrows
September 9, 1999	Creighton, Sturgeon Landing, Denare Beach
September 10, 1999	Prince Albert
November 29, 1999	Pelican Narrows (Southend Reindeer, Sandy Bay & Pelican Narrows invited)
November 30, 1999	Deschambault Lake
December 1, 1999	Creighton (Creighton, Denare Beach, Sturgeon Landing, Cumberland House & Jan Lake invited)

Minutes from most meetings are available from the SE office in Creighton and the Sustainable Land Management office in Prince Albert.

Appendix 5: PROTECTED MANAGEMENT AREAS AND PROTECTED SITES

Protected management areas and protected sites have been identified in the planning area. Seven protected areas in the planning area are designated as Ecological Reserves, under the Ecological Reserves Act administered by SE. Pursuant to that Act, The Representative Area Ecological Reserves Regulations, being chapter E-0.01 Reg 7 of the Revised Regulations of Saskatchewan. Seager Wheeler RA, Amisk Lake RA, Sturgeon-weir RA, Jan Lake RA, Mari Lake RA, Perry Lake RA, and the Halldorson Bay RA meet the requirements of the Representative Area Network Program. Areas proposed as protected sites are Meridian Creek and Frog Portage.

Protected Zones

Saskatchewan's Representative Areas Network Program

The Government of Saskatchewan, through Saskatchewan Environment (SE) is committed to the establishment of a system of ecologically important land areas across the province. This system is called the "Representative Areas Network".

Saskatchewan is made up of various landscapes. A representative area is a sample or piece of a particular landscape identified because of its important land-forms, wetlands, soils, plants, animal resources or cultural values. Representative areas are intended to allow for natural processes to occur. They can also serve as test sites that can be studied and monitored to measure how well we are managing natural resources and ecosystems elsewhere in the province.

As its name suggests, the Representative Areas Network must include lands and waters that represent a broad range of ecological diversity. Saskatchewan's landscapes have been divided into 11 distinct "ecoregions", each characterized by its geology, soils, climate, plants and animals.

Just as the reasons for choosing a particular site vary, so too, do the uses that are acceptable within new sites. In some sites, human activities and access may be limited so that the area's ecological resources and integrity can be managed or restored. In the majority of sites, however, land uses that are compatible with the program's ecological objectives can be accommodated. Suggestions and needs identified by local interest groups and users will largely determine the kinds and levels of activity that may occur within a particular site.

Consultation and input from local users helps to determine the best option for each site.

Through these discussions, specific needs, concerns or issues can be addressed on a site-by-site basis and outlined in a management plan or strategy for the area.

AREA 1 - SEAGER WHEELER LAKE REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Seager Wheeler Lake site is representative of the range of natural ecosystems that occur within the mid-boreal lowland ecoregion, outside of the Saskatchewan River Delta. Six different soil associations (enduring features) are present within this large (nearly 180,000 hectare) site including bogs and fens, and morainal soil types like sand, sandy loam and loam. There are no developed roads throughout the site which means that the ecological and natural resources within the area are largely undisturbed.

Vegetation on the site is mostly composed of plant types normally associated with bogs and fens. Stands of black spruce occur throughout the area with some being quite extensive. In some of the area, particularly at slightly higher elevations, black spruce/white spruce and jackpine stands occur along with a variety of plants that make up the understory normally associated with these stand types. Many of these tree stands would be considered "very old growth" forests in Saskatchewan, largely because they have not been subjected to fire or other natural disturbances.

The mixed bog/fen forest, in conjunction with the absence of roads within the area, provides ideal habitat for a large population of woodland caribou. This species is provincially protected and recognized nationally as being threatened. Other large mammals in the area include moose and white-tailed deer. Both of these species are hunted by traditional resource users as well as sport hunters. The area is also a known breeding ground for great grey owls.

The representative area also contains important water resources. The Mossy River and its tributaries flow through the site. The "headwaters" of the Puskwakau River, an important northern walleye river, are contained within the area. Seager Wheeler Lake and several smaller lakes, some of which are also "headwater" lakes, are also contained in the site. The Seager Wheeler Lake area may contain as many as 15 species of fish, many of them minnow or bait species. The deepwater sculpin, a threatened species can be found here. The smaller headwater lakes are likely devoid of fish, meaning that their aquatic invertebrate communities are different than fish-bearing water bodies.

The area provides an important fur resource to the First Nations people of the area. Muskrat, beaver and wolf are trapped by many of the people from Deschambault Lake and Cumberland House. Other important fur resources include mink, weasel and martin.

Enduring features are used to guide site selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

Within the overall Representative Areas Network, the Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area is important because of the number and diversity of enduring features represented in the site. Six different enduring feature types occur within this large (177,961 ha/439,736 ac) area.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

✓ trapping
✓ hunting
✓ angling
✓ bait fishing
✓ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
✓ berry picking, where berries may be sold
✓ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
✓ exercise of treaty rights
✓ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
✓ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
✓ existing wild rice growing
✓ snowmobiling on existing trails
✓ educational and research related activities
✓ existing recreational cottage lease

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

✗ commercial timber harvesting
✗ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
✗ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
✗ recreational cottage subdivisions
✗ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
✗ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
✗ hydroelectric projects
✗ gravel pits

- ✗ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✗ new wild rice growing areas
- ✗ fire salvage logging
- ✗ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✗ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✗ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✗ exotic fish introductions

Seager Wheeler Lake Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Cumberland House Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users, and/or any other party recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area.

The Seager Wheeler Lake Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in this Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Seager Wheeler Lake site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act.*

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Seager Wheeler Lake Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Mineral Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 2 - AMISK LAKE REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Amisk Lake site is representative of natural ecosystems occurring within the northern extent of the mid-boreal lowland ecoregion. Two distinctly different enduring feature types are present within this relatively small site (approximately 1695 ha).

Enduring features are used to guide site selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

Rock outcrops and cliff faces are apparent along much of the lake shore, indicative of the transition into the more northerly shield ecoregions. Light, sandy-loam soils, thinly cover the near-surface bedrock and support the growth of mixedwood forests dominated by white spruce and aspen on the predominant upland enduring feature type. The maturing state of the forest is evident through the dying out of much of the aspen component of the forests and the ingrowth of late successional species such as balsam fir across much of this gently undulating feature.

The remaining lowland enduring feature type is dominated by poorly drained organic soils which support large expanses of flat, black spruce bogs. Here, the forest floor is covered by peat moss, Labrador tea and sedges.

This mix of upland forests and lowland bogs provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species such as moose, black bear, wolves, foxes, furbearers including marten and fisher, as well as a diversity of bird species. Rock crevasses associated with the near-surface and exposed bedrock also provide habitat for garter snakes.

The representative area also contains historical and cultural features such as a European trading post, and is associated with nearby sites, including Beaver City, the York boat Warehouse site, and sites of pre-European contact pictographs.

The area has been used historically for hunting, trapping, gathering and selective logging, and is now dominated by mature mixedwood forests. Almost 75% of the upland classified stands are within the mature forest category, and these are dominated by white spruce forests with a dying aspen component. Some white birch exist, scattered throughout the stands, while balsam fir is becoming an extensive understory species in some areas. While this aging forest has not been subjected to extensive forest fires in some time, it is currently experiencing some spruce budworm damage.

Lowland black spruce bogs comprise approximately 20% of the area, with the balance of the site containing some immature stands of hardwoods and black spruce/jack pine mixes.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✔ trapping
- ✔ hunting
- ✔ angling
- ✔ bait fishing
- ✔ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✔ berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✔ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✔ exercise of treaty rights
- ✔ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✔ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✔ snowmobiling on existing trails
- ✔ educational and research related activities

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✘ commercial timber harvesting
- ✘ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✘ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
- ✘ recreational cottage subdivisions
- ✘ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✘ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
- ✘ hydroelectric projects
- ✘ gravel pits
- ✘ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✘ new wild rice growing areas
- ✘ fire salvage logging
- ✘ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✘ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✘ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✘ exotic fish introductions

Amisk Lake Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users, and/or any other party recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Amisk Lake Representative Area.

The Amisk Lake Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in this Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Amisk Lake Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Amisk Lake site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act.*

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Amisk Lake Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Amisk Lake Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Mineral Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 3 - STURGEON-WEIR RIVER REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Sturgeon-weir River site is representative of natural ecosystems found at the southern limits of the Precambrian Shield. Four enduring feature types are present within this site which spans two ecoregions; the Churchill River Upland and the Mid-boreal Lowland. The majority of the site is within the Churchill River Upland and is dominated by enduring feature types characterized by exposed bedrock outcrops and a thin, discontinuous veneer of sandy glacial till. Only a very small portion of the Sturgeon-weir River site is defined as a lowland enduring feature type within the Mid-boreal Lowland.

The rock outcrops and thin soils form a landscape of ridged and rolling topography, generally with slopes of less than 10 percent. Jack pine and black spruce dominate the uplands and rocky areas, with the occasional stand of aspen or aspen dominated mixedwoods. Black spruce and tamarack are present in the lowland bogs and fens, along with peat moss, sedges and low shrubs.

Enduring features are used to guide selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities. Within the overall Representative Areas Network, the Sturgeon-weir River Representative Area is important because it captures four under represented enduring features (4,569/11,285 ac).

Scattered through the site are a number of small lakes and ponds, most of which are linked, through creeks and draws, to the Sturgeon-weir River. The Sturgeon-weir River with its varied waterscapes and rapids, forms the northern boundary of this representative area. As the water in this river is warmer and more productive than more northerly rivers, it provides habitat for many waterfowl species, especially white pelican. The surrounding landscape, with its diversity of softwood uplands and lowlands, provides habitat for a mix of wildlife species, including moose, woodland caribou, bear, wolves, furbearers such as beaver, marten and fisher. The area also provides for a host of bird species.

While much of the area provides for hunting, trapping and gathering, it has seen no extensive road network as access is generally gained via the river. Areas to the north of the river, outside the representative area, have undergone forest logging, while this area south of the river has not been subjected to this type of disturbance. As such, the area is dominated by mature forests, primarily of jack pine / black spruce associations. Some of the area contains immature stands, again of the pine / spruce mix, while only a small percent of the area is classified as old forest.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✔ trapping
- ✔ hunting
- ✔ angling
- ✔ bait fishing
- ✔ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✔ berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✔ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✔ exercise of treaty rights
- ✔ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✔ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✔ existing wild rice growing
- ✔ educational and research related activities
- ✔ existing recreational cottage lease

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✘ commercial timber harvesting
- ✘ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✘ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
- ✘ recreational cottage subdivisions
- ✘ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✘ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
- ✘ hydroelectric projects
- ✘ gravel pits
- ✘ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✘ new wild rice growing areas
- ✘ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✘ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✘ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✘ exotic fish introductions

Sturgeon-weir River Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users and/or other party recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Sturgeon-weir River Representative Area.

The Sturgeon-weir River Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in the Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Sturgeon-weir River Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Sturgeon-weir River site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act*.

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Sturgeon-weir River Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Sturgeon-weir River Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Minerals Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 4 - JAN LAKE REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Jan Lake area is representative of natural ecosystems occurring within the southern reaches of the Churchill River Upland ecoregion. Although this site contains only one enduring feature type, it is a feature which is fairly extensive in this area of the ecoregion, thus making this site representative of a large portion of the landscape. The Jan Lake Representative Area is 32,905 ha./81,275 ac. in size.

Enduring features are used to guide selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

The Jan Lake site is comprised of extensive bedrock outcrops which, in combination with thin glacial till deposits, forms a rugged, rolling landscape. Jack pine and black spruce dominate the rocky ridges while some mixed forests of pine, black and white spruce, aspen and birch are supported on the thin soils between large outcrops. The landscape is also dotted with occasional low lying pockets of black spruce and tamarack bogs and fens, often associated with small open water bodies.

Indicative of the surrounding area in the Churchill River Upland, the site provides habitat for moose, woodland caribou, bear, wolves, beaver, marten and fisher, just to name a few. Also present are a mix of forest bird species, as well as numerous birds associated with a large waterbody - Jan Lake, including loons, mergansers, grebes, ducks and bald eagles. The large waterbody, with a number of inlet streams, also provides aquatic habitat for game fish such as northern pike, walleye, perch and lake trout, and associated forage species such as shiners, sticklebacks, and sculpin.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✓ trapping
- ✓ hunting
- ✓ angling
- ✓ bait fishing
- ✓ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✓ berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✓ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✓ exercise of treaty rights

- ✓ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✓ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✓ existing wild rice growing
- ✓ educational and research related activities

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✗ commercial timber harvesting
- ✗ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✗ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
- ✗ recreational cottage subdivisions
- ✗ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✗ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
- ✗ hydroelectric projects
- ✗ gravel pits
- ✗ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✗ new wild rice growing areas
- ✗ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✗ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✗ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✗ exotic fish introductions

Jan Lake Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users and/or other party recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Jan Lake Representative Area.

The Jan Lake Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in the Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Jan Lake Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation. An example would be construction of an access road through the north end of the Jan Lake Representative Area, linking the Sandy

Narrows Reserve with Highway 135.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Jan Lake site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act*.

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Jan Lake Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Jan Lake Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Minerals Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 5 - MARI LAKE REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Mari Lake area is representative of natural ecosystems occurring within the Churchill River Upland ecoregion. A portion of this site provides coverage of a couple of enduring feature types that are common across the ecoregion, while the remainder of the site covers features that are unique to this location. Located along the Saskatchewan / Manitoba border, the Mari Lake Representative Area encompasses large portions of Kipahigan and Mari Lakes and an expanse of the surrounding landscape, resulting in a total area of approximately 31,850 ha/78,700 ac.

Enduring features are used to guide selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

The Mari Lake landscape is predominantly comprised of thin glacial till deposits overlying Precambrian bedrock, producing hummocky topography with relatively steep gradients. Other areas within the site are dominated by exposed bedrock, forming a rugged, rocky terrain. A flat, lowland area dominated by organic soils covers a portion of the southeast end of the representative area. The thin, sandy soils and rocky outcrops of this site support slow growing coniferous forests dominated by jack pine and black spruce. Some mixedwood stands of aspen and white spruce occur scattered across the landscape. Hardwood stands comprised of aspen or birch occur on less than 10% of the upland landbase. The site is dominated by immature forests, with mature and old stands making up less than 40% of the total upland area.

The coniferous dominant forests provide cover for moose, bear, wolves, and occasionally small bands of woodland caribou. Lowlands of willow and alder provide foraging opportunities for moose, while fens of sedges and dwarf birches, and open jack pine stands with lichen ground cover offer foraging sites for the low population of woodland caribou. Furbearers such as mink, marten, otter and lynx inhabit the forests and lakeshores. Great horned owls, great grey owls and northern hawk owls may be present in the forests, as well as grouse, jays and woodpeckers (just to name a few). Lakeshores provide nesting opportunities for birds of prey such as eagles and osprey. Waterfowl species such as loons, mergansers, goldeneye and buffleheads also nest along these northern lakes. Lake trout and whitefish inhabit many of the deep, cold lakes, along with northern pike, walleye and cisco.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✔ trapping
- ✔ hunting
- ✔ angling
- ✔ commercial fishing
- ✔ bait fishing
- ✔ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✔ berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✔ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✔ exercise of treaty rights
- ✔ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✔ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✔ existing wild rice growing
- ✔ educational and research related activities

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✘ commercial timber harvesting
- ✘ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✘ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
- ✘ recreational cottage subdivisions
- ✘ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✘ hydroelectric projects
- ✘ gravel pits
- ✘ new wild rice growing areas
- ✘ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✘ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✘ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✘ exotic fish introductions

Mari Lake Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users and/or other party recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Mari Lake Representative Area.

The Mari Lake Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in the Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Mari Lake Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Mari Lake site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act*.

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Mari Lake Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Mari Lake Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Minerals Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 6 - PERRY LAKE REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Perry Lake area is representative of natural ecosystems occurring within the Churchill River Upland Ecoregion. The site provides representation of three terrestrial enduring feature types; one of which is the second most abundant feature type in the ecoregion, a second feature type which is scattered infrequently in patches throughout the ecoregion, and a third feature type having low distribution as it only occurs twice in the ecoregion. Therefore, the Perry Lake site provides good representation for the ecoregion, covering a variety of feature types, one of which is common, while the others are somewhat unique. The Perry Lake Representative Area is 39,800 ha/98,350 ac in size.

Enduring features are used to guide selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

The enduring feature coverage of the Perry Lake site basically splits the area into thirds. Additionally, large islands within Reindeer Lake are also captured. Generally, the majority of the site is dominated by poorly developed acidic, brownish-colored forest soils which are well to imperfectly drained. These are primarily the result of coarse textured morainal deposits overlying Precambrian bedrock. A portion of the site contains materials which were originally deposited into standing glacial waters, resulting in somewhat finer textured soils of silty sands. The deposition of glacial material over bedrock has produced a hummocky landscape, characterized by moderately steep slopes. A large area of the site along the west of Reindeer Lake has a much gentler topographic profile of undulating plains. This area of low relief is due, in part, to the infilling of an old valley by glacial deposits. However, the area is bisected by an esker, one of a number occurring in this part of the ecoregion. The low relief has resulted in large expanses of muskeg while small kettle lakes edge the esker and stream channels provide drainage into Reindeer Lake. The west half of the site presents a much more varied topography of hummocky knolls and discontinuous ridges, and some larger waterbodies.

Black spruce is dominant on the thin soils and tree cover varies in density from fairly open stands to closed canopy where the glacial deposits are deeper. Jack pine are more common on sandy and gravelly deposits such as esker ridges. The finer textured silty sands support mixedwood forests of aspen, white spruce, balsam fir, and birch as well as the more typical cover of black spruce and jack pine.

The Perry Lake representative area provides habitat for the ususal mix of forest wildlife species such as moose, woodland caribou, black bears and wolves. Small predators and furbearers also inhabit the area along with a variety of bird species such as woodpeckers, owls, nuthatches and chickadees. Large waterbodies such as Reindeer Lake, Perry Lake, Thompson Lake and Gilbart Lake with their numerous bays and islands support populations of waterfowl, eagles and osprey. Lake trout and whitefish inhabit many of the deep, cold lakes along with northern pike, walleye and cisco.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✔ trapping
- ✔ hunting
- ✔ angling
- ✔ bait fishing
- ✔ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✔ traditional berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✔ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✔ exercise of treaty rights
- ✔ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✔ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✔ existing wild rice growing
- ✔ educational and research related activities

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✘ commercial timber harvesting
- ✘ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✘ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
- ✘ recreational cottage subdivisions
- ✘ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✘ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
- ✘ hydroelectric projects
- ✘ gravel pits
- ✘ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✘ new wild rice growing areas
- ✘ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✘ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products

- ✗ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✗ exotic fish introductions

Perry Lake Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users and/or other parties recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Perry Lake Representative Area.

The Perry Lake Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in the Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Perry Lake Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Perry Lake site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act*.

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Perry Lake Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Perry Lake Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Minerals Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

AREA 7 - HALLDORSON BAY REPRESENTATIVE AREA

Important Features and Topography

The Halldorson Bay area is representative of natural ecosystems occurring throughout much of the Churchill River Upland Ecoregion. Although the site contains only one terrestrial enduring feature type, it is the second most abundant feature of the ecoregion, making this site representative of a large portion of the landscape. Located between the Saskatchewan / Manitoba border and the east shore of Reindeer Lake - Whitesand Bay, the Halldorson Bay Representative Area is approximately 6,690 ha/16,530 ac in size.

Enduring features are used to guide selections in the Representative Areas Network program. Enduring features are specific rock, soil and land-form types that are very stable over long periods of time, and are likely to support characteristic plant and animal communities.

The Halldorson Bay landscape is essentially comprised of thin glacial till deposits, overlying Precambrian bedrock. Originating from the Athabasca sandstone to the north, these thin deposits form sandy soils and produce a hummocky surface which is largely reflective of the underlying bedrock. Occasional glacial deposition features such as eskers and drumlins are also found within the representative area.

The thin, sandy glacial till supports open black spruce stands which increase in density in lower, depressional areas of thin peat accumulations. Scattered, stunted black spruce and the occasional tamarack are associated with low boggy areas. These low lying areas are generally associated with the numerous drainage channels which flow into Halldorson Bay.

The Halldorson Bay area provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species including moose, woodland caribou, black bear and wolves, as well as furbearers such as mink, marten, lynx and otter. A mix of bird species can be found in the area, particularly those associated with softwood forests such as chickadees, nuthatches and woodpeckers, as well as those associated with large waterbodies such as bald eagles, osprey, loons and other waterfowl. The large waterbodies and streams also provide aquatic habitat for game fish such as lake trout, northern pike, walleye, whitefish and cisco, as well as forage species such as shiners, stickleback and sculpins.

Site Use and Management

Allowable Activities and Developments:

- ✓ trapping
- ✓ hunting
- ✓ angling
- ✓ bait fishing
- ✓ mushroom picking, where mushrooms may be sold
- ✓ traditional berry picking, where berries may be sold
- ✓ existing outfitting, including setting of bear bait stations
- ✓ exercise of treaty rights
- ✓ development of reasonable access to support traditional or treaty uses
- ✓ hiking and backpacking on existing trails
- ✓ existing wild rice growing
- ✓ educational and research related activities

Carrying out of these activities would be subject to normal licensing or permitting requirements, as may be applicable.

Activities and Developments Not Allowed:

- ✗ commercial timber harvesting
- ✗ new trails that could be used for recreational purposes by motorized vehicles
- ✗ mineral development and/or mineral exploration
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- ✗ new residential and/or recreational cabin leases
- ✗ new base camps to support tourism or commercial ventures
- ✗ hydroelectric projects
- ✗ gravel pits
- ✗ new or expanded outfitting operations
- ✗ new wild rice growing areas
- ✗ weirs, dams or control structures on or in streams
- ✗ commercial harvest of non-timber forest products
- ✗ collection of rare and endangered plants
- ✗ exotic fish introductions

Halldorson Bay Advisory Board

Saskatchewan Environment (SE) will establish an advisory board comprised of representatives of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, stakeholders, interest groups, users and/or other parties recognized as having an interest or role in the ongoing management and use of the Halldorson Bay Representative Area.

The Halldorson Bay Advisory Board shall meet at the request of SE to act in an advisory capacity to review and recommend specific activities, management tools, research and educational activities that may be considered for application within the representative area. Once the Board has been struck, a comprehensive Terms of Reference shall be established and adopted by the Board and SE.

Activities and uses not specifically stated in the Concept Management Plan that are under consideration for the Halldorson Bay Representative Area shall be reviewed by the Advisory Board prior to implementation.

Site Designation

Formal designation of the surface area of the Halldorson Bay site is as a Representative Area, created by regulations established pursuant to *The Ecological Reserves Act.*

A representative area is a legally protected natural area which may serve as a benchmark for measuring environmental changes and the ecological health of this and other areas in Saskatchewan. Representative Areas can also be used to preserve ecological and geological features and provide opportunities for scientific research and study related to ecological health. The Halldorson Bay Representative Area contains features and resources that fit each of these ecological purposes.

The Crown minerals underlying the surface of the Halldorson Bay Representative Area will be managed by a Crown Minerals Reserve established by Saskatchewan Energy and Mines pursuant to *The Crown Minerals Act*. A Crown Reserve withdraws the minerals from disposition for exploration or development purposes, thereby affording maximum protection for the site's full range of resources.

Proposed Protected Sites

SITE 1 - MERIDIAN CREEK (Proposed extension to include limestone crevasses)

The site is located south of Denare Beach on the east side of highway 167, north of the picnic area, adjacent to the Meridian Creek Recreation site. The site provides the public the opportunity, via a short hike, to view impressive limestone crevasses. Safety is an issue. Inspection of the site may be done at your own risk.

SITE 2 - FROG PORTAGE

The proposed protected area is a significant historic archaeological site. Frog Portage is 340 meters long and extends from Frog Creek on the south to the Churchill River on the north. The northern end of the portage is located between Trade and Uskik lakes on the Churchill River. The portage allows ready movement between the Churchill and Sturgeon-weir River systems.

Historically it is of great importance and continues to be a crucial link in the travel routes used by residents of the region.

Appendix 6: THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN SASKATCHEWAN

Administration of Mineral Resources

Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR) is responsible for the administration of all Crown-owned mineral and petroleum commodities, including quarried commodities, in the Province, with the exception of aggregates (sand, gravel, and structural clay) and horticultural peat which are administered by Saskatchewan Environment (SE). In the planning area, SE also administers the Crown surface rights for the Province. This includes monitoring the environmental regulation of mining operations and the rehabilitation of sites.

SIR controls the disposition of Crown mineral rights through the administration of the following provincial legislation:

- The Department of Energy and Mines Act;
- The Oil and Gas Conservation Act;
- The Crown Minerals Act;
- The Freehold Oil and Gas Production Tax Act;
- The Mineral Taxation Act, 1983;
- The Mineral Resources Act, 1985; and
- The Pipe Lines Act.

There are two main types of mineral dispositions, a mineral claim and a mineral lease. A mineral claim allows the claim holder the exclusive right to explore for minerals within the claim area. The claim is held on a year to year basis by expending the required amount on exploration and by filing the work for assessment credit. The claim holder has a guaranteed right to convert the claim to a lease assuming that all of the requirements are met. A mineral lease allows the holder the exclusive right to develop and produce from the lease area subject to royalty payments to the provincial government. A mineral lease has a renewable term of ten years. Mineral claim and lease holders have a guaranteed right of access to their dispositions, subject to meeting the requirements of the surface permits and leases issued by SE.

Land Use Planning — Principles, Issues, and Recommendations

From the perspective of Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, the following principles, issues, and recommendations are essential to the mining industry and must be incorporated into all land use planning activities:

Principles:

- To ensure the best use of Saskatchewan's non-renewable resources by maintaining access to land for mineral exploration and development whenever possible.
- To provide security of tenure of mineral rights. Compensation to be provided to mineral rights holders whose lands have been voluntarily surrendered for other land uses. There is no legislative provision under the Crown Minerals Act for the expropriation of existing mineral dispositions.
- To ensure that land use decisions take into consideration both known and potential mineral resources. The potential economic loss must be considered for any proposals which would restrict access to these resources.
- To ensure that the mineral industry is consulted on land use decisions.

Land Use Issues and Management Recommendations:

Two land use issues are vital to the mineral industry: (1) Access to Land; and (2) Compensation.

(1) Access to Land

Issues

- Potential conflicts with other land uses or priorities may restrict access to land for mineral exploration and development.
- Limitations on mineral exploration and development will have negative economic implications. Land lost from mineral exploration and production represents a potential economic loss to the Province. Any loss of economic development and employment opportunities in rural and northern parts of the Province is serious, as these areas suffer from high unemployment. This is particularly important in the Amisk-Atik plan area as mining is the principal industry in the region.

Recommendations

- For any land use proposal that could restrict mineral exploration and development the following course of action is required:
  - Contact Saskatchewan Industry and Resources (SIR) to evaluate

the mineral potential of the area. SIR has already identified existing mineral deposits and potential mineral resources by conducting a mineral resource assessment of the Amisk-Atik area. Periodic updates of this assessment will be required to incorporate new information, including input from the mining industry, as part of an ongoing process.

- SIR will identify existing mineral dispositions in the area from current mineral disposition maps.
- Using this information, negotiations among the various stakeholders will resolve conflicts where possible. Options could include moving the site of the conflicting use to one of lower mineral potential, or the land use proposal could be altered to address the concerns of the mineral interests.

(2) Compensation

Issue:

- Mineral exploration and development involve a high risk of investment over a significant time span, and will not occur if there are uncertainties about tenure of mineral rights. If resolution to a disputed site cannot be reached, and existing mineral dispositions are voluntarily surrendered by the holders, the disposition holders must be adequately compensated. There is no legislative provision for the expropriation of existing mineral dispositions.

Recommendation:

- Develop a compensation process, involving the mineral industry, SE, SIR, and other affected stakeholders.

Mineral Exploration and Production

The mineral industry can be divided into two main components — exploration and production. Initial mineral exploration covers large tracts of land, and is generally non-invasive, involving minimal surface disturbance. Successive exploration programs become more focused on target identification. Mineral exploration is a high risk activity, and because of the risk, is generally difficult to finance.

Mineral production is a site specific activity, with a high impact on a small area (from ten to a few hundred hectares). Production is relatively easy to finance because of the relative certainty gained from a positive economic feasibility study and a defined mineral resource.

All developments are subject to stringent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes before any approval is given for development. The EIA includes requirements for rehabilitating the site following production.

The Mineral Exploration Process

The following describes the general mineral exploration process from the initial stages through to the mine development.

Initial research to outline a region of interest, usually for a specific mineral deposit type. This may include:

1. government geology and mineral reports and maps, assessment files, mineral deposit index, mineral disposition maps, etc.;
2. discussions with government geologists; and
3. private (company or individual) information where available.

Regional "grassroots" exploration to define more specific areas of interest (thousands to hundreds of thousands of hectares). This may include:

- Prospecting, reconnaissance geologic mapping, reconnaissance geochemical sampling (e.g. rock, soil, lake and stream sediment) and airborne geophysical surveying. These activities take place over large areas and have no impact on the landscape.

The **staking of mineral claims** over specific areas of interest.

- A mineral claim grants the holder the sole right to explore within the claim boundary. Claim tags and registration forms must be acquired from the local mining recorder's office prior to the staking of the mineral claims. Up-to-date mineral disposition maps from the mining recorder's office should be checked before any staking is done to ensure that there is not a conflict with existing dispositions or reserves. The claims are rectangular in shape and are marked on the ground with four, tagged corner posts joined by cut and flagged lines. The claims must be registered with the mining recorder's office.

Property-scale exploration to identify and define targets (hectares to hundreds of hectares).

- A surface exploration permit from SE is required before any of this work can be done on Crown land. Typically the first step in property-scale exploration is the cutting by hand of a reference grid over the area(s) of interest. The initial work may normally consist of geologic mapping, prospecting and rock sampling, geochemical sampling, and geophysical surveying. These activities have minimal impact on the landscape.

If specific exploration targets or sites of mineralization are identified they will be examined in detail (scale of hectares). If the mineralization occurs at or near surface the area is often trenched or stripped by hand or with equipment and sampled. The depth and length extent of surface mineralization and/or undefined geophysical or geological targets may be evaluated with diamond drill holes that produce cores of rock which can be examined, logged, and sampled. This phase of exploration typically has a significant impact on localized areas as heavy equipment is commonly involved and temporary access roads may be required. Reclamation of disturbed sites is required.

Mineral deposit delineation program (hectares to tens of hectares).

- In the very rare situation where significant mineralization is discovered, a delineation diamond drill program is carried out to define the dimensions and grade of the deposit. Commonly other exploration activities are also conducted such as mapping, trenching, stripping, rock sampling, and geophysical surveying. Several phases of drilling may be carried out. In the later stages of this delineation process underground exploration will also sometimes be conducted which requires the excavation of an exploration shaft or ramp. Underground excavations may require the approval of an Environmental Impact Assessment (see Mining below). Bulk samples of tens to hundreds of tonnes are commonly taken for metallurgical testing. This advanced stage of exploration typically involves a high level of surface disturbance on a small area. The reclamation of the disturbed area(s) is required.

Mining of the orebody (ten to a few hundred hectares).

- In the extremely rare situation where an economic orebody is delineated, mining may take place following a rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process that assesses all environmental and societal impacts of the proposed development. Mining will have a high impact on a small area, typically from ten to a few hundred hectares. The EIA includes the requirements for rehabilitating the site following production. This is supported by a performance bond posted by the company. SE and Saskatchewan Northern Affairs (SNA) regulate the EIA process and must approve the EIA before granting a surface lease for the mine. The company must also convert the mineral claim(s) to a mineral lease(s) before production can take place.

In summary, initial mineral exploration requires large land areas where the exploration activities have no significant impact on the landscape. Successive stages of exploration target progressively smaller areas where some impact on the landscape may occur. These stages of exploration require surface exploration permits issued by SE, with specific regulations governing activities and the reclamation of disturbed sites. In the extremely rare situation where a mineral orebody is to be mined, an EIA must be approved by SE and SNA prior to the granting of the surface lease necessary for mining to take place.

Environmental Impacts

The potential impacts of mineral exploration and development activities and the amounts of land disturbed will vary depending on the mining stage (exploration, milling, processing, or decommissioning). These activities can impact bio-diversity in several ways, including increasing access to remote areas, fragmentation of habitat and contamination through pollution. For these reasons, careful planning and a comprehensive approvals process is required.

Mineral exploration may disturb a larger area than actual mining, but to a lesser degree. Exploration requires temporary access to large tracts of land to increase the chances of finding an economic mineral deposit. The traditional view is that ecosystem impacts are temporary and localized, but more information on the area disturbed and potential impacts on bio-diversity is needed to confirm this.

Milling and processing require a smaller land base, but their impact in terms of tailings and waste rock disposal, as well as the mine site and associated infrastructure, can be more significant and longer term than exploration. The degree of impact depends on the type of mine and the processing methods used. The primary impact of mines in the boreal shield is on aquatic biodiversity due to discharge of effluents into the water.

Raw mill effluents can be high in heavy metals and levels of suspended solids. Proper disposal of mine tailings and associated mine drainage is essential to avoid toxicity problems in localized areas and more widespread impacts on aquatic biota. Provincial regulations are aimed at ensuring that water quality levels downstream of the treated waste water discharge are at, or close to, the natural background levels of potential contaminants, minimizing overall effects on surface water quality and aquatic biota. The mining industry needs to continue to monitor and address these issues to ensure the long-term containment of mining wastes and to protect ecosystems in the boreal shield.

Enforcement and compliance concerns in the mining industry revolve around spills and clean-up of mining related materials. Contaminated or hazardous materials from the mining operation occasionally spill onto the ground in the area of a mine. Spills occur due to equipment failure (i.e., broken pipes, leaking valves) or as a result of human error. Spills outside of containment areas are generally recovered by a vacuum truck, when possible, and deposited in a tailing or sludge pond. Any contaminated ground is removed by heavy equipment and placed in the same ponds. These spills generally have little or no environmental impact if cleaned up in short order. Compliance with provincial legislation is achieved by reporting the spill and undertaking clean-up procedures as ordered by the appropriate SE official.

Another common type of spill involves petroleum products (e.g., diesel fuel, engine oil) leaking from vehicles and equipment. Damage to equipment and/or accidental spillage can result in a relatively small amount of product being deposited on the ground. Clean-up involves removal of the contaminated soil to an appropriate location. All mines have staff trained to handle such spills and have usually completed the clean-up before an on-site inspection. Spills are reported via a toll free number to the Spill Report Center located in Prince Albert.

Containment dikes, berms and ditches around ponds, waste rock, ore and special waste piles are designed to prevent the release of contaminated water to the environment. Infrequently, human error or uncontrollable circumstances may lead to a release which cannot be contained. Power failures and heavy rainfall have led to such releases in the past. Each occurrence is reported by the company, investigated and remediated if required. Additional enforcement action may be taken by SE depending on the nature and volume of the release and the potential for impacts to the environment.

Other compliance activities involve mineral exploration. Permitted areas are checked regularly to ensure compliance with provincial legislation. Surface leases are checked to ensure the correct areas are being used for roads, camps, landings and other permitted activities. Abandoned sites are also checked to ensure compliance with litter regulations. Charges may be laid where an abandoned site is not left in a natural state.

Saskatchewan Industry and Resources Contacts

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Appendix 7: AMISK-ATIK RECREATIONAL LEASE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL LEASE GUIDELINES

What is the purpose of the Special Management Area?

- There has been a freeze on recreational cabin development since 1978, and local people want the opportunity to enjoy the cabin experience.
- The Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area is a specific area that allows lease application for recreational cabin development.
- Through the development of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan, Saskatchewan Environment personnel worked closely with the Creighton and Denare Beach local advisory boards, the Regional Advisory Board, the council of the northern village of Denare Beach, the Town of Creighton, and affected resource users in the development of these guidelines.
- Some benefits provided by obtaining a recreational cabin lease will be peace, tranquility, and a wilderness experience. It is recognized that new recreational cabin development will result in more activity on the land base. These guidelines are intended to direct this development while minimizing impacts to the environment and conflicts with other users.

When can people expect leases to become available?

- The implementation target date is set for August 1, 2002.

Section 1 - Establishment and Location

Why was the Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area (SMA) established?

- Many local residents and communities around Creighton and Denare Beach favor the establishment of a Special Management Area allowing for recreational lot leasing for the purpose of building recreational cabins within the area.

What area does the Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area cover?

- The SMA follows the same boundary as Fur Block N-66.

What conditions are in place for access to remote recreational cabin sites?

- No new roads can be built to access recreational leases (only existing roads and trails).
- Road access to remote sites is not guaranteed. Where road access has previously been established, such roads may be used with no improvement allowed.

Section 2 - Applicable Guidelines for this Recreational Lease Opportunity

What types of recreational cabin development will be allowed?

- Individual Remote cabin development

- **"Recreational lease"** means any agreement creating a bona fide tenancy between the Crown as landlord and a tenant in respect of Crown resource lands, and any buildings or structures erected thereon, to be used exclusively for secondary, non-permanent occupancy or residency with no usage of a commercial or business nature.

How many recreational cabins will be approved?

- A SE inventory of possible sites for recreation leases in Fur Conservation Area N-66 will provide **31** recreation lease opportunities for sites adjacent to water bodies and **10** recreation lease opportunities for sites not adjacent to water bodies.

- SE will assess and establish capacity for recreation lease development. Consideration of additional opportunities for development will be based on SE study and review. Studies will assess impacts to local resources in the affected areas.

What size are the lease lots?

- Standard lot size is 23 m frontage by 46 m depth for recreational dispositions.

Who can apply for recreational cabin lease development opportunities?

- The opportunity to lease a site for recreational cabin development is open to anyone who is of legal age *(18 years)*.

Who handles and processes the lease applications?

- A Draw system will be used to assign sites.
- This recreational lease opportunity will be advertised, indicating the deadline for receipt of Draw applications.
- Successful Draw applicants will complete a recreational lease application.
- Both the Draw and Lease applications for recreational cabin development will be handled by the Saskatchewan Environment (SE) office in Creighton, Saskatchewan. Applications will be forwarded to SE's Shield EcoRegion office in La Ronge for approval and Sustainable Land Management Branch for processing.

Will there be any specific restrictions to the development of recreational leases?

- SE has developed an inventory of possible areas in Fur Conservation Area N-66 for recreation lease development. Selecting locations of lease sites must be done to minimize the effects on trap-line activity.
- Interference with any existing disposition holders (e.g. forestry & mining) will be kept to a minimum.
- Recognizing that the Treaty Land Entitlement process is ongoing, recreational leases will not be issued in TLE areas.
- recreational leases will not be issued in protected areas.

What will be the length of time for a lease?

- leases are issued on a 10 year renewable term as long as the lessee lives up to the conditions of their lease.

Will there be an opportunity to purchase the leased property?

The proponent **can not** purchase the property.

Section 3 - Area Restrictions on Recreational Leasing

Is the whole area open to recreational leasing?

Recreational leasing for cabin development will **not** be allowed:

- On islands less than 2.5 hectares in size.
- Other excluded areas (protected areas, etc.) as per the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.

Recreational leasing for cabin development **will** be allowed:

- In forested areas
- On shores of lakes specified by SE in N-66 Fur Block.
- On islands greater than 2.5 hectares in size (in specified lakes).

Section 4 - Recreational Cabin Development Terms and Conditions

What conditions are required for remote recreational cabin development?

- family units only, a maximum of two different names per lease.
- may be renewed and/or assigned given compliance with terms and conditions of existing disposition.
- one habitable dwelling (minimum size - 37 sq. m or 400 square feet) per lot.
- no trailers or mobile homes will be allowed.
- all remote recreational sites should be 1.6 km from any traveled road and must be set back 90 m from any established access trail.
- Any proposed remote recreational cabin development must be at least 1.6 kilometres (1 mile), in a direct line, from any other cabin.
- Distance between cabins can be reduced provided there is agreement with all users in the immediate area (e.g., existing cabin owners, trappers, other disposition holders) in the form of written consent stating land users have no objection to a cabin development being closer than 1.6 kilometres.
- Distance between cabins can be reduced at time of application providing two or three parties wanting to be close together apply jointly, sign a statement saying they have agreed to a reduced distance between cabin developments, and a copy is to be on file at SE.
- Setback on all water bodies will be a minimum of 30 meters (100 feet) from the highwater mark.
- Selected recreation lease sites must not impact critical fisheries or wildlife habitats.

Section 5 - Lease Application Steps

What steps must be followed in order to obtain a recreational lease?

- Sites will be assigned through a draw system.
- Applications for the Draw to be received at the Creighton SE office.
- Successful Draw applicants will then have to complete a standard recreational lease application form.

- SE will ensure the applicant consults with all nearby disposition holders (trappers, cabin owners, FMA proponent, etc.) and First Nations Councillor of nearby community (Denare Beach) to determine if there are any concerns with the location of the building site. SE will mediate a resolution to any concerns.
- SE and the proponent will identify the actual ground site for the recreation lease. The proponent will accompany a conservation officer from the Creighton SE office for the purposes of conducting a 'Metes and Bounds Survey'.
- The completed application form and the survey is then forwarded to the Regional Land Manager for review and approval, then to Sustainable Land Management Branch (SLMB) for processing.
- Once approved, a "Lease" is prepared by SLMB and forwarded for Lessee signature and payment of all fees.
- Lessee cannot access site until in receipt of the lease.

Section 6 - Leaseholder Fees

What fees must the leaseholder pay?

One-time fees:
- Registration fee
- Metes and Bounds Survey fee

Annual fees:
- Annual lease fee
- Municipal taxes

How much is the registration fee?

A $50 registration fee is charged to cover the legal costs of preparing and registering a new lease.

How much Is the annual lease fee?

The current rent for a standard recreational leased lot is $250 per year, plus GST, payable in advance.

How much is the Metes and Bounds Survey Fee?

The fee for this service is $100, plus transportation costs.

Do property taxes apply to these leases?

- Yes, owners of recreational cabins constructed on Crown land under the authority of a lease agreement must pay property taxes assessed by the municipality, which in the north is MA&H.
- Currently, assessed property taxes for standard types of remote recreational cabins average between $150 and $250 per year. Size, quality of construction materials and extras, such as plumbing, would be assessed at higher levels.

Section 7 - Leaseholder Responsibilities

What are my responsibilities as a leaseholder?

- Build a recreational cabin within two years of obtaining a lease in accordance with lease conditions and approved development plan. All development costs are the responsibility of the applicant.
- It is the leaseholder's responsibility to know building, fire, and health codes and regulations and to make sure cabin construction meets the requirements of these regulations in addition to any environmental terms and conditions.
- Follow development conditions as specified in the lease document and have all development changes, such as expansions, approved by the department before construction.
- Pay annual lease fees and property taxes.

For more information on the Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area, contact Saskatchewan Environment (SE) at:

Creighton Area Office, SE
P.O. Box 190, Creighton, SK S0P 0A0
Telephone: (306) 688-8812 **Fax:** (306) 688-4745

Appendix 8: DISCUSSIONS RESULTING IN THE AMISK-ATIK RECREATIONAL LEASE SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA PROPOSED RECREATIONAL LEASE GUIDELINES

Chronological Compilation of Meeting Information From the Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board and the Amisk-Atik Local Creighton/Denare Beach Advisory Board

From Regional Advisory Board (RAB) meeting minutes, November 2, 3, 4, 1998:

***CABIN DEVELOPMENT*:**

- prior approval from all lease holders before approval to build in area
- declaration waiving fire protection prior to development
- no planting of non-native species
- no new individual cabins other than for traditional resource use
- remote cabins in non-residential sites (i.e., trapping, fishing)have no legal rights
- cabin development tied to traditional pursuits
- no new cabins within 100 m lakes/rivers
- cabins for other than traditional resource use (TRU) must be in approved surveyed subdivisions
- non-commercial use clause
- no cabins within any buffers established by land use plan
- taxes paid to nearest office
- proper sewage/water/disposal facilities
- no new road development for cabins
- education material for remote cabin/litter fire, access,
- Forest management agreement (FMA) holder not responsible for cabin destruction
- in designated areas only, consistent with aesthetic values
- fisheries permit, or check on available resources
- consultation and approval from local authority
- no cabins on islands
- proper water, sewage, and garbage disposal
- cabin use for designated purposes
- environmentally friendly construction
- no cabin development on rivers
- buffers around cultural, historical, archaeological sites
- no cabins within 500 m of historical, cultural, archaeological, and sensitive areas(e.g.- eagle nests)
- biologist signs off on development plans

- local building materials only, bought locally
- no guarantee of road maintenance to cabin
- pack in, pack out
- litter control

From Local Creighton & Denare Beach Advisory Board (LAB) meeting minutes, February 22, 1999, Creighton:

- **Additions to agenda:** Add wilderness recreational cabins
  - discussion on existing regulations, particular to recreational cabins/freeze on construction south of Northern Administrative District (NAD) line (Churchill River)
  - extensive discussion on existing freeze on development of leases issue
  - discussion curtailed until later. Return to initial agenda.
- **NOTE:** Policy should be developed for recreational cabins. Felt local residents (definition required) should be given first opportunity
- suggestion that wilderness cabins potentially be allowed. *(This was part of the Jan Lake Proposed RAN discussion, page 2.)*

From RAB Meeting minutes, April 12-14, 1999, Creighton:

14) **The Cabin Issue**
I. Issues List:

A. Trespass cabins
The conservation office usually deals with this issue. Any cabin found on unleased property may be destroyed. The trespass cabins still exist because there are not enough resources in Conservation to monitor the problem.

B. New sites, future planning
This issue will be dealt with under the land use plan (LUP). SE reserves the right to deny requests by the LUP, but they are well aware that the land use plan for this area will likely include leases.

C. Lease conversion; one type to another
Most leases can be converted but certain types of leases are no longer being issued; for example, most commercial leases are no longer available.

D. Buffers around cabins
There is a 90 meter buffer around cabins, generally involving consultation with the cabin owners.

E. Road access
Road access will be covered at the next meeting.

F. Transfer leases, sales

Sale of leases can only take place with residential and commercial leases, residential leases are not issued any longer. Holders of residential leases are required to have lived at the location as the primary residence for at least ten years. Holders of commercial leases must have completed all development. The purchase price is ten times the price of the lease. A new issue was brought up, land lots used for farming, and the purchasing of crown land for farming. It was suggested that residential cabins might be granted on remote, fishless lakes.

Action Item: Henry and Gary will take the issue of cabins on fishless lakes back to their communities.

From LAB meeting minutes, April 26, 1999, Creighton:

- the RAB is considering the issue of cabins, whether the Zone A Freeze on new cabin developments should be lifted, how many cabins should be allowed, where and what the process should be for granting leases.
- Sustainable Land Management Branch may consider lifting the freeze if there is consensus in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan on what should happen in the area.
- the more issues local people can agree on (process, what lakes, how many cabins, etc.), the better chance there will be of having the freeze lifted
- Manitoba goes through a draw process, usually in unproductive areas (where there is limited forestry and fishing)
- there are some strong feelings in favour of lifting the freeze
- there is also concern that lifting the freeze may cause problems; no control over who has the cabin and whether they are responsible
- concern over not being able to control the process for who gets cabins; can not restrict someone from Regina from getting a cabin
- if you open up subdivisions (which could happen now if a plan was submitted and approved), then eventually there are problems with roads, garbage collection, school buses, etc.
- there are costs to the government associated with remote leases; checking and monitoring the leases; there are not enough resources now to monitor the existing leases which is why there are still currently problems with trespass cabins
- there is a lot of interest for cabins, probably more than we would expect; including some from down south
- suggestion to only open cabins in areas where there are current cabins with access, to reduce the chance of new roads needing to be developed
- should set a process for opening up new cabins
- some people want cabins in areas where there are no cabins, but not opening every lake, maybe only one, three or five, etc.
- options: 1) allow cabins in existing areas only, 2) allow cabins on small remote lakes or non-fish bearing lakes, or lakes that are not commercial, day-use, or

sport fishing lakes, 3) allow cabins where leases were identified in the past and not developed, 4) allow more cabins on Amisk Lake, from Denare Beach down to the Sturgeon-weir River (there is an existing road and power line).

- **Recommendation:** committee to be established to develop some options to consider at the next meeting (options for lifting the freeze). Committee members will be - Steve Lane, Stewy Mathieson, Keenan Tait, Clyde Jones, George Muir, Randy Rice (Steve to contact Ruth Angell and she will come to meeting if available).

From RAB meeting minutes, May 4, 5, 1999, Denare Beach:

Discussion On Cabins

- Pelican Narrows, Deschambault, Sandy Bay and Jan Lake would not mind recreational cabins in the Amisk-Atik region but would prefer to see them kept to subdivisions, and most would not like them on the lakes in their areas. It is mostly Denare Beach and Creighton that want cabins. Henry stated that the idea of subdivisions on treaty land is a possibility that would involve quite a bit of extra regulation, but that the possibility seems to be there.
- Action Item: The local boards will attempt to define their areas of use. They will state the lakes where they do not wish to see any cabins and will state the lakes where cabin development is desired. If people could try to start mapping the uses in specific areas, that would help and these maps could serve as an appendix to the LUP. Gary will bring the one that they have been working on as an example. Boards will review the list of cabin issues and will come back with responses in hopes that a recommendation can be made.

From LAB meeting minutes, May 17, 1999, Creighton:

Cabins (Steve Lane)

- there was not much agreement between the sub-committee members
- sub-committee agreed that there should be cabins on Big Mari Lake
- sub-committee agreed that eligibility for cabins should be 18 years of age, Saskatchewan resident, and it should be done on a draw
- sub-committee agreed that there should be no new roads; only using existing trails
- they want to call a big general public meeting (a call for who wants cabins)
- Creighton SE office gets lots of calls for people inquiring about cabins; Guy gets calls at Rocky View and has a list of about 20 names
- there would be a lot of economic benefit from increased cabins
- impact on fish and wildlife is a concern; an increase in cabins on a lake will have an impact, but the question is, how much of an impact?

- subdivisions are currently allowed; that will not meet the needs of those that want remote wilderness cabins
- sub-committee agreed that subdivisions would be their last choice for a cabin location
- a concern of the sub-committee is that a few will do the work for all the people of Saskatchewan; however if no one does the work then no one will get cabin lots.
- the sub-committee wrote a letter to the MLA, Steve will get a copy of the letter to Jocelyn to include in the minutes and take to the Regional Advisory Board meeting.
- suggestion to do an analysis of the lakes and determine realistically which could have cabins (i.e., cancel lakes that are at their limit for commercial fishing and outfitting, etc.) - this work needs to be done prior to the public meeting. Steve will begin work on this.

From LAB meeting minutes, October 4, 1999, Creighton:

- the cabin issue was reviewed
- there has been and is currently a freeze on establishing any new recreational leases in the area; by way of this land use planning process there is the ability to recommend to the government that the freeze should be lifted if local people can agree on a process (a process for allowing cabins, or a list of lakes to be considered, or numbers of cabins to be allowed, etc.)
- Steve Lane is heading up the group interested in the freeze being lifted, he has considered holding a public meeting for all those interested in more cabin development being allowed; however, such a meeting has not been held as of yet; anyone interested should contact Steve
- the only vocal group for increased cabin development is in the Creighton/Denare Beach area, all other communities are not interested in seeing additional cabin development; therefore, if this recommendation is to be included in the land use plan, local people must come up with and agree on a process
- ***this issue will be addressed again at the next local meeting***

From LAB meeting minutes, October 18, 1999, Creighton:

- Steve provided a copy of the letter he received from Keith Goulet
- people want cabins
- need to deal with fisheries, wild rice operations, etc.
- room for additional 20 cabins on Big Mari (four or six would be reasonable, for a total of ten)
- also room for 15 cabins along the Sturgeon-weir road, but would be a major concern for trappers
- there is no room for cabins on Granite Lake or Birch Lake

- there are 120 lakes in the area; the total of new cabins would be approximately 65 cabins on 8 lakes
- some people would like a lot on a lake with no fish potential
- 30 more cabins on Amisk Lake— need rating factor and consider the TLE at the south of the lake that may be developed
- no cabins should be in the sensitive or protected areas
- could possibly be on an island if it is greater than five hectares
- local residents should be offered the cabin sites; Saskatchewan residents over the age of 18 would be eligible
- freeze on **cabin leases** has been in effect for 20 years; there will be a high demand for leases— but trappers will not wish to see many new cabins
- subdivisions are currently allowed and a proposal could be approved with relative ease
- RAB would like to hear a presentation outlining options to choose from and alter
- Steve would like to meet with trapping association, wild rice operators, outfitters, etc.

From LAB meeting minutes November 22, 1999, Creighton:

- Sandy Bay trappers and fishers faxed a letter to the Creighton SE office identifying that they did not want to see additional recreation cabins in N-33 Trapping Block without local consultation.
- the trappers from Denare Beach do not like the idea of cabins every ½ Kilometer down the South Amisk Lake road - it would stop any trapping (can't trap within ½ Kilometer of any cabin)
- Glen Dubinak (N-66 Trapper and retired SE seasonal fire fighter and FPW) spoke to explain his perspective of how an increase in the number of cabins would affect him...
    - he does not want to see an increase in cabins on Mari Lake
    - he commercially fishes a number of lakes including Mari, and he has been fishing for 36 years; he employs 3 First Nations people; and they worked for 5 months last winter
    - he commercially fished the lakes before there were any trails or cabins
    - each lake has a limit (pounds and net size) that is set by Fisheries to ensure that the fish are sustainable
    - as an example, if there were 20 more cabins on Mari Lake, at about 200 fish per cabin, that works out to about 8000 lbs; that is over 2/3 of the commercial limit - there would be a definite impact on his fishery
    - feels that the wilderness would be destroyed
    - there would be pressure put on the eagles (many eagles nest on Mari Lake)

    - there are many sensitive areas on the lake for fish and wildlife; Weetego Falls is a pickerel and sucker spawning area and a otter fishing area, Telephone Narrows and Alex Bay Narrows are wildlife crossing areas, Green Island is a summer caribou calving area (in the summer there can be 7-9 caribou on the island)
    - people also come in with quads (day use) and fish all summer and fall
    - this extra angling pressure was not here before
    - winter angling by snowmobile has increased substantially
    - there is an existing snowmobile trail from Flin Flon and Creighton to Mari Lake (one person can get from his house in Creighton to Glen's cabin at the north end of Mari in 27 minutes) - the point is, the access is easy and the pressure is already there, additional cabins will increase the pressure even more
    - one weekend last winter there were 65 anglers at the north end of Mari Lake
    - If the road at the south end of Mari (put in by Simpson Timber) were permanently closed, that would reduce some of the pressure
    - he does not want to see additional cabins - the access is such that people can already get to these places; yes, some people want cabins, but many people do not
    - the commercial fishery is how he makes his living and he wants that to be considered when discussing this cabin issue
    - since the Russian economy collapsed, the fine fur market has fallen substantially - trapping is in trouble with the market and people are relying more on the fishery to make a living
- lake management is a good idea; there is limited information from Fisheries about how many fish are out there
- when there is a closure put somewhere, that fishing pressure goes somewhere else
- Dennis showed the group a document "Northern Saskatchewan Strategic Opportunities Assessment" done through New North, apparently funded by the Province, he will get a copy for SE - this may have some information that will be useful to the land use planning discussions.
- Merv also spoke about how additional cabins would affect him; he has been commercially fishing and trapping around Wildnest Lake for 25 years; he wants people to really understand that it is his job and livelihood; it is his way of life and how he makes a living; he too can remember when there were no people out there, and now there are always people there; he does not want to see additional cabins
- we need to work together for the benefit of all
- need to come up with a recommendation that people can agree to

- the cabin proposal needs to be refined; pick a few lakes where there are few impacts and it can be presented to the Regional Advisory Board

  December; all issues will be raised and the local Creighton & Denare Beach Board can discuss any recommendations for the Land Use Plan at the next meeting.

From RAB meeting minutes, January 2000, Creighton:

Cabins

- Handouts: *Churchill and Peter Pond Lakes Special Management Area, Shoreline and Recreational Lease Guidelines, Fact sheet - Recreational Cottaging on Crown Resource Lands, Future Cabin Owner's Proposal - Steve Lane.*

Review of Cabin Proposal

- The proposal is to open all of Zone A because of the freeze that has been in effect for so many years, but it was suggested that the focus remain on the part of Zone A that is within the Amisk-Atik planning area.
- Item #3 of the proposal should also include outfitters.
- Remote area residents may not want any recreational cabin development; a specific boundary should be developed with agreement from all communities that outlines where cabins will be allowed (e.g.-follow trapping block boundaries or specific lakes).
- Define 'local' within the final proposal document e.g.-include anyone within the planning area.
- Should try to keep cabin development to a confined area, work with the people specifically affected, and mark areas of contention to be off-limits— cannot only include one community when many communities are intertwined and will be impacted, even if it is indirectly.
- At the next Creighton/Denare Beach community meeting (January 17), maps should be consulted for areas, what types of people will be affected, and locations should be identified. Possible areas where conflict is expected to be minimum should also be established.
- Buffer zones around certain activities, such as industrial, need to be examined. The new leases should allow trappers to exercise their rights up to a specific distance from the recreational cabin so trapping can continue.
- It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have someone who worked on the Buffalo Narrows cabin proposal to provide solutions to expected problem areas.
- **Action Item**: **Bob** to get information from Buffalo Narrows to find out the process for developing recreational cabin guidelines, and how they addressed issues of contention.

From LAB meeting minutes, January 17, 2000, Creighton:

Reviewed cabin proposal by Steve Lane
  - have letters for Pelican Narrows and Sandy Bay Local Advisory Boards asking for cabins to be allowed on the north end of Mari and Wildnest Lakes.
    - already talked to them, they have no problems with this.
- Can a cabin be sold if it is on leased land?
- consultation with trappers needs to happen at the beginning; safety concern with traps.
- reduce the trapping distance to cabins through consultation
- need to identify areas of concern
  - **Guy** and **Jack** to take back to trappers

From LAB meeting minutes, February 21, 2000, Creighton:

Recreational Cabin Lease Issue
- Steve reviewed the discussion from the Regional Advisory Board meeting (Feb. 8 & 9).
- Bob Reed stated that the freeze may have to be lifted throughout the entire Amisk-Atik area if this Special Management Area went through.
- The proposal is to lift the freeze only in the N-66 trapping block.
- Delete 25 agricultural lease proposal.
- Delete cluster cabin lease proposal.
- The proposal did include Amisk and Athapap Lakes.

Discussed Pine Point cabin letter and some specific questions about some lakes. (Gord Rudd not present.)

Discussed Denare Beach Fisherman's Co-op letter Re: Mari Lake, etc. (No one from Fisherman's Co-op present.)

Discussed N-66 Trappers' Association letter
- N-66 is not a remote area.
- They work on a consensus basis for trapper issues and decisions.
- They consider all uses that are taking place, e.g., mining, forestry.
- 125 cabins automatically gives you a magnitude problem.
- Not enough sustainable habitat left, even now without the proposed cabins.
- How do you reduce trapper/cabin owner conflict issues; who solves these?
- N-66 already badly affected by the forest cutting of past years.
- Issue of saturation of cabins in some specific areas.
- Ownership issues raised.

- 'Good Neighbour' policy has been considered, e.g., relationship with next-door trapping blocks and implications of approving any cabins in N-66.

From RAB meeting minutes, February 8, 9, 2000, Denare Beach:

- **Update** from Steve Lane on the Revised Recreational Cabin Proposal.
- Would like to limit the number of cabins per lake to no more than five.
- Note that the proposal is in first draft stage.
- A definition of "remote" may be required, as well as a limit to the size of a remote cabin.
- The proposal only includes the N-66 trapping block to avoid infringements on other communities' rights/ideas for their own proposals. Some people feel that the lifting of the freeze should cover the Amisk-Atik area in its entirety.
- Need to know if the 'metes & bounds' survey will be enough.
- Some interest has been shown in Pelican Narrows for agricultural leases.
- Policing/enforcement of abiding by the lease restrictions is a concern.
- Concerns were expressed over the fact that, once a cabin lease is sold, there is little control over the use of the land.
- The Partnership requested consultation before issuing a lease and building a cabin.
- The idea was suggested of the possibility of submitting two separate proposals, one each for remote recreational cabin leases and for agricultural leases.
- Clifford shared an example of increased traffic due to a recreational lease. Four different parties purchased a lease as a joint venture, and the traffic has increased greatly in the area. A similar example was stated by Gary Bloomfield where hundreds of people were accessing the one particular cabin.
- Information is needed on the impacts of new leases to fisheries, wildlife, etc.
- A possible way to monitor the amount of fish caught by lease holders would be to include a clause requiring cabin owners to submit a catch record.
- Separate angling licences per person, per lake— quota for annual catch limit of fish allowed to be removed by cabin owners/users. The number of licensed fishermen on a lake at a time was another idea.
- A government official (Lands branch) should be invited to answer policy concerns/questions.

From RAB meeting minutes, March 7, 8, 2000, Creighton:

Cabins

- Steve gave an overview of the results of the Creighton/Denare Beach Local Advisory Board meeting in February.
- Letters from Pine Point Lodge, Denare Beach Fishermen's Co-op, N-66 Trappers' Association stating discontent with the cabin proposal.

- Some changes will be made to the proposal:
- agricultural leases and cluster leases will be deleted.
- change the limit to 10 cabins on Amisk Lake and no more than 5 cabins on any other lake.
- left with 125 proposed leases, and are prepared to lower the number to as little as 99.
- the main request from people is for a negotiator to mediate the development of recreational cabin leases.
- it was suggested that the proposal be kept small to encourage agreement. This proposal could be used as a template for lifting the freeze in other parts of the Amisk-Atik area for others who may want cabin development in their areas.
- Concerns about the effects on fisheries were addressed.
- Local Advisory Boards need to address the possible impacts on fisheries by the development of cabins. Foresight is needed from all parties involved to address questions and concerns about the protection of fisheries— restrictions on some lakes within the proposal may be necessary, such as allowing only electric motors or permitting only catch and release angling. People would like to see some of these issues dealt with *before* control over the situation is lost.
- Easier access now compared with in the past, due to faster snowmobiles, ATVs, etc., was discussed at the local meeting.
- Next steps: proposal will be updated and sent to the Regional SE staff (Fisheries/Lands) for review; discussion will continue at the next local Creighton/Denare Beach meeting and at the next Regional Advisory Board meeting.

From RAB meeting minutes, April 4, 5, 2000, Denare Beach:

- **Creighton/Denare Beach Special Management Area - Cabin Proposal**
- The April meeting at Creighton will be the last opportunity to review the latest draft.
- The part of the proposal that states that a recreational lease can be assigned to another party (under special circumstances such as part of an estate) conflicts with not allowing the sale of a lease to non-local residents. It was decided to delete this part of the proposal.
- The number of lots per trapping zone has been reduced to three, except Zones 6 & 7, which are very small and are only allowed one cabin lease each in the proposal.
- Approval from SE should be required for a lease to be transferred to the new owner of the cabin after a sale— this is currently in place.
- The Catch & Release 2 program could be placed on the entire lake to limit the amount of fish removed.
- People should be assured that only 32 cabin leases will be allowed.

- Amisk Lake has the most utilization; treaty people want assurances that their past activity can be continued.
- It was suggested that, if people want cabin leases for their own recreation, why not make it a lease that must be renewed or renegotiated after five years, conditional to adhering to guidelines/restrictions (no guarantee that the next person will be granted the lease).
- Consider having the policy guidelines to work around resource management in regards to enforcing conditions; need to clarify an end goal for the proposal—long-term vision. The objective for obtaining recreational cabins is for peace, tranquility, and relaxation, not for personal economic gain (e.g. building a cabin for the sole purpose of resale).
- Some people would like to see the sale of leases restricted to Saskatchewan residents, but we must keep in mind the revenue that can be brought into the area by non-local leaseholders, it may also become a legal issue and a professional legal opinion should possibly be sought on the matter.
- Need to establish a process for allocating the 32 new lease sites; lottery, 'first-come, first-serve', and pre-determined sites were some methods that were discussed.
- Note that there is interest in having the recent re-establishment of an historic site in Zone 11 counted as one of the new developments out of the three proposed for that zone.

From RAB meeting minutes, May 2, 3, 2000, Creighton:

Cabin Proposal

- Because the cabin proposal has not yet received approval from trappers, even after reducing the number of proposed cabins to 32 from 125, they would like the number of proposed cabins to be increased back up to 125.
- Comments from Bev and Trevor of Fisheries were reviewed. Reasoning must be provided in the proposal, as well as possible alternatives to any issues that have been raised.
- In respect to concerns about the decline of fish populations due to new cabin developments, it was commented that the sport of fishing has seen many changes over the years. Access to many lakes is now available because of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) such as quads; boats travel much faster and can access more of the lake; and technological developments in angling equipment and tackle have made quite a change in the way people fish and the amount of fish taken.

Proposal to be submitted as a non-consensus recommendation in the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan

Complete copies of all the minutes in this appendix are on file in the SE office in Creighton.

Appendix 9: PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Provincial

The Clean Air Act and Regulations
The Crown Minerals Act
The Department of Energy & Mines Act
The Department of Environment and Resource Management Act
The Ecological Reserves Act and Regulations
The Environmental Assessment Act
The Environmental Management and Protection Act
The Fisheries Act and Regulations
The Forest Act and Regulations
The Forest Resources Management Act
The Heritage Property Act
The Highway Traffic Act
The Highways and Transportation Act 1997
The Litter Control Act
The Mineral Disposition Regulations
The Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations
The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations
The Natural Resources Act
The Northern Affairs Act
The Parks Act and Regulations
The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982.
The Provincial Lands Act
The Public Health Act
The Rural Municipality Act
The Resource Lands Regulations
The Sand and Gravel Act
The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Act
The Water Corporation Act
The Water Pollution Control and Waterworks Regulations
The Wildlife Act and Regulations
The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act

Federal

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act
The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
The Fisheries Act
The Forestry Development and Research Act
The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Act
The Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994

The Indian Act
The Navigable Waters Protection Act

Appendix 10: PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL RELATED POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

LANDS

Cancellation and Non-Renewal of Dispositions on Crown Resource and Park Lands, Saskatchewan Environment.

Foreshore and Shoreland Installations, Saskatchewan Environment.

Churchill and Peter Pond Lakes Special Management Area, Shoreline and Recreational Lease Guidelines, Saskatchewan Environment

Resource Land Dispositions, Saskatchewan Environment.

Sale of Crown Resource Land, Saskatchewan Environment.

Sign Corridors on Crown Land, Saskatchewan Environment.

Temporary Work Camps, Saskatchewan Environment.

Unauthorized Occupancy and Use of Crown Resources or Park Lands, Saskatchewan Environment

Unauthorized Indian Hunting Cabins on Crown Resource Land and Park Land, Saskatchewan Environment.

Policy on Outfitting in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Environment. March 1997.

Guidelines for Environmental Protection During Development and Restoration of Sand and Gravel Pits, Saskatchewan Environment and Public Safety.

FISHERIES

Surface Exploration. Department Guidelines for the Mineral Exploration Industry.

Guidelines for the Use of Explosives in Canadian Fisheries Water. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, August, 1993.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Water Control Structures. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Road Construction and Stream Crossings. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Sand and Gravel Pits. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Freshwater Intake End-of-Pipe Fish Screen Guideline. Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Recreational Developments. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Overhead Powerlines. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Habitat Protection Guidelines, Irrigation Developments. Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Saskatchewan Environment.

Aquaculture, Saskatchewan Environment.

Lake Closure And License Suspensions For Commercial Net Fisheries, Saskatchewan Environment.

Allocation of Commercial Fisheries, Saskatchewan Environment .

Commercial Net Fishing License Eligibility Requirements, Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Marketing, Saskatchewan Environment.

Commercial Net Fishery Gamefish Harvest, Saskatchewan Environment.

Licensing/inspecting Fish Processing Plants, Saskatchewan Environment.

Under-utilized Fish Species, Saskatchewan Environment.

Angling Baits And Bait Fish, Saskatchewan Environment.

Complimentary Fishing Privileges, Saskatchewan Environment.

Subsistence Fishing, Saskatchewan Environment.

Mercury and Triaenophorus in Fish, Saskatchewan Environment.

Fish Stocking, Saskatchewan Environment.

FORESTRY

Fire and Forest Insect and Disease Management, Saskatchewan Environment.

Timber Management, Saskatchewan Environment.

Forest Harvesting in Saskatchewan Provincial Parks, Saskatchewan Environment.

Spruce Bud Worm in Lac La Ronge Provincial Park, Saskatchewan Environment.

Saskatchewan Long-Term Integrated Forest Resources Management Plan, Saskatchewan Environment.

Saskatchewan Forest Management Policy Framework Agreement, Saskatchewan Environment.

WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Policy Framework, Saskatchewan Environment

Problem Wildlife, Saskatchewan Environment.

Big Game Damage Compensation, Saskatchewan Environment.

Big Game Unfit for Human Consumption, Saskatchewan Environment.

Hunting And Fishing, Saskatchewan Environment.

Disabled Hunters - Special Permits, Saskatchewan Environment.

Whooping Crane Protection - Sandhill Crane Season, Saskatchewan Environment.

Subsistence Hunting, Saskatchewan Environment.

Injured or Orphaned Wildlife, Saskatchewan Environment.

Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention, Saskatchewan Environment.

Captive Wildlife, Saskatchewan Environment

Falconry, Saskatchewan Environment

Sale of Wildlife, Saskatchewan Environment

Retaining Dead Wildlife Under Permit

Import or Export of Wildlife Under Permit

Dispositions of Wild Meat/Permits to Serve Wild Meat

ABORIGINAL

Aboriginal Consultation Guidelines

SERM Aboriginal Affairs Policy Framework

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT

Are You at Risk from Wildfire? Saskatchewan Environment.

A Guide to Responsible Burning, Saskatchewan Environment.

Prescribed Burning, Saskatchewan Environment.

Appendix 11: LIST OF COMMON VEGETATION IN THE AMISK-ATIK LAND USE PLAN AREA

Vegetation	Scientific Name
Balsam Fir	Abies balsamea
White Spruce	Picea glauca
Balsam Poplar	Populus balsamifera
Trembling Aspen	Populus tremuloides
White Birch	Betula papyrifera
Willow	Salix L.
Green Alder	Alnus sinuata
Black Spruce	Picea mariana
Jack Pine	Pinus banksiana
Tamarack	Larix laricina
Wild Rice	Zizania palustris

Appendix 12: LIST OF COMMON FISH SPECIES IN THE AMISK-ATIK LAND USE PLAN AREA

Fish	Scientific Names
Lake Sturgeon	*Acipenser fulvescens*
Lake Trout	*Salvelinus namaycush*
Arctic Grayling	*Thymallus arcticus*
Northern Pike	*Esox lucius*
Walleye	*Stizostedion vitreum*
Lake Whitefish	*Coregonus clupeaformis*
Burbot	*Lota lota*
Yellow Perch	*Perca flavescens*
Common Cisco	*Coregonus artedi*
Longnose Sucker	*Catostomus catostomus*
Common White Sucker	*Catostomus commersoni*
Trout Perch	*Percopsis omiscomaycus*
Nine Spine Stickleback	*Pungitius pungitius*
Spot-tail Shiner	*Notropis hudsonius*
Black-nose Shiner	*Notropis heterolepis*
Iowa Darter	*Etheostoma exile*
Lake Chub	*Couesius plumbius*
Rainbow Trout	*Salmo gairdneri*
Spoonhead sculpin	*Cottus ricei*
Slimy Sculpin	*Cottus cognatus*
Sauger	*Stizostedion canadense*
Brook Trout	*Salvelinus fontinalus*
Longnose Dace	*Rhinichthys cataractae*
Log Perch	*Percina caprodes*

Fish	Scientific Names
Brook Stickleback	*Culaea inconstans*
Deepwater Sculpin	*Myoxocephalus thompsoni*
Emerald Shiner	*Notropis atherinoides*
Fathead Minnow	*Pimephales promelas*
Johnny Darter	*Etheostoma nigrum*
Creek Chub	*Semotilus atromaculatus*
Pearl dace	*Semotilus margarita*
Finescale dace	*Chrosomus neogaeus*
Northern redbelly dace	*Chrosomus eos*
Blacknose dace	*Rhinichthys atratulus*
Shorthead redhorse	*Moxostoma macrolepidotum*

Appendix 13: LIST OF COMMON MAMMALS IN THE AMISK-ATIK LAND USE PLAN AREA

Mammals	Scientific Name
Moose	*Alces alces*
Woodland Caribou	*Rangifer tarandus-caribou*
Black Bear	*Ursus americanus*
Timber Wolf	*Canis lupus*
Mule Deer	*Odocoileus hemionus*
White-tailed Deer	*Odocoileus virginianus*
Elk	*Cervus canadensis*
Beaver	*Castor canadensis*
Lynx	*Lynx canadensis*
Wolverine	*Gulo gulo*
Fisher	*Martes pennanti*
Snow-shoe Hare	*Lepus americanus*
River Otter	*Lutra canadensis*
Muskrat	*Ondatra zibethicus*
Marten	*Martes americana*
Mink	*Mustela vison*
Red Squirrel	*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*
Short-tailed Weasel	*Mustela erminea*
Red Fox	*Vulpes vulpes*

Appendix 14: LIST OF COMMON BIRDS IN THE AMISK-ATIK LAND USE PLAN AREA

Birds	**Scientific Name**
Connecticut Warbler	*Oporornis agilis*
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	*Picoides tridactylus*
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*
Ovenbird	*Seirus aurocapillus*
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*
Hermit Thrush	*Parus atricapillus*
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*
Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus*
Barred Owl	*Strix varia*
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*
Spruce Grouse	*Canachites canadensis*
Ruffed Grouse	*Bonasa umbellus*
Common Nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*
Cape May Warbler	*Dendroica tigrina*

Birds	**Scientific Name**
Mourning Warbler	*Oporornis philadelphia*
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Dendroica castanea*
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*
Magnolia Warbler	*Dendroica magnolia*
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Dendroica pensylvanica*
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*
Sharp-tailed Grouse	*Tympanuchus phasianellus*
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
Sandhill Crane	*Grus canadensis*
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*
Red Necked Grebe	Podiceps Grisegena
Horned Grebe	Podiceps Auritus
Great Grey Owl	*Strix nebulosa*
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*
Canada Jay (Whiskey-jack)	*Perisoreus canadensis*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularia*
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Dendroica coronata*
White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*

Birds	**Scientific Name**
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*
Willow Ptarmigan	*Lagopus lagopus*
Pine Grosbeak	*Pinicola enucleator*
California Gull	*Larus californicus*
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*
Greater White-Fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*

Appendix 15: SASKATCHEWAN'S PROVINCIAL PARK LAND SYSTEM

The basis for Saskatchewan's system of park land is found in the provincial legislation known as *The Parks Act*. Saskatchewan Environment is the provincial government department that is responsible for the ongoing management of provincial park land through the administration of this legislation. According to *The Parks Act*, park land has two purposes:

1. To provide a place for outdoor recreation and education for Saskatchewan residents and visitors; and
2. To protect important natural and historic resources for future generations.

"Park land" consists of a number of different types of areas, including **provincial recreation sites**, **protected areas**, **provincial historic sites**, **provincial markers**, and **provincial parks**. These different categories of park land, which are explained briefly below, each play a unique role in achieving the overall purposes of park land designation.

Provincial Recreation Sites: Provincial recreation sites, which tend to be relatively small areas, allow for participation in a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities such as fishing, boating, camping, and picnicking. Lake access points and facilities such as campsites, picnic tables, and barbeques are often provided at these sites.

Protected Areas: Park land set aside to protect archaeological and natural sites with unique or irreplaceable resources.

Provincial Historic Sites: Park land designated for the purpose of protecting specific historic features of provincial significance. One of the most well-known of Saskatchewan's provincial historic sites is Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Stanley Mission.

Provincial Markers: Plaques that acknowledge a point of interest and provide interpretation of any significant prehistoric or historic theme or event, historic personage, or feature of scientific or natural interest. These markers do not have a land base.

Provincial Parks: There are four different types or classes of provincial parks — wilderness; natural environment; recreation; and historic. Saskatchewan's provincial parks are also considered to be Representative Areas Network (RAN) sites (See Appendix 5).

- **Wilderness Provincial Parks:** These parks cover large tracts of undisturbed land that allow for participation in a number of wilderness recreation activities, including canoeing, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Facility development is kept to a minimum to maintain wilderness provincial parks in their natural state. Examples of wilderness provincial parks include the Clearwater and Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Parks found in the Northern Administration District.

- **Natural Environment Provincial Parks:** This type of park is intended to protect the natural environment of representative and unique landscapes that display a variety of ecological characteristics. These parks also tend to cover large tracts of land with high potential for a wide variety of outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., hiking, canoeing, and camping) and interpretive activities that require a natural environment setting. An example of a natural environment provincial park situated in the Northern Administration District is Lac La Ronge Provincial Park.

- **Recreation Provincial Parks:** Recreation provincial parks are intended to provide opportunities for a wide variety of intensive outdoor recreational activities that may require a natural environment setting.

- **Historic Provincial Parks:** Provincial historic parks protect and interpret historic resources representative of themes and events that have contributed to the history of Saskatchewan.

Park Land Zoning

A zoning system divides a park land area into various smaller management zones. Each zone identifies the type and extent of acceptable use, development, means of access, and management so that conservation and public use requirements of *The Parks Act* can be met. Zoning also provides specific criteria by which development proposals are evaluated. The seven zones that have been established for Saskatchewan's park lands, as well as the purposes of these zones are described below:

- **Protection Zones** — to protect rare, significant, endangered, special, and/or unique species and natural features;

- **Wilderness Zones** — to provide areas capable of sustaining wilderness recreation experiences;

- **Natural Zone** — to provide areas representative of the natural landscape and compatible recreation experiences;

- **Historic Zone** — to preserve and interpret cultural resources;

- **Resource Management Zone** — to accommodate short-term resource extraction or compatible resource use;
- **Development Zone** — to provide areas for moderate to intensive recreational opportunities and visitor services; and
- **Access Zone** — to provide corridors for public and utility access within and throughout the park land area.

Appendix 16: TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT SELECTIONS IN PROPOSED AMISK-ATIK PLANNING AREA (UPDATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2003)

Treaty Land Entitlement selections frequently change with new requests and withdrawals. See section 4.1.5 - First Nations Treaties, in the background document, for additional information

Reference Number	Selection Name	Size (est. in ha)	Location	Status	Reserve or Expiry Date
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation First Nation					
820.030(2)	Pelican Narrows Crown Lots	2.84	*Lat 55°10' Long 102°57'*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.030.1(1)	Deschambault - Private/Federal Lots	10.51	*Part of Community*	Reserve	20-Jun-96
820.030.1(2)	Deschambault - Provincial Lands	28.07	*Part of Community (Parcels D and*	Reserve	20-Jun-96
820.030.1(3)	Deschambault - Provincial Lands - Reselected	62.36	*Part of Community*	Reserve	20-Jun-96
820.030.3	Sandy Bay (Wapaskokimow)	59.92	*Lat 55°32' Long 102°20'*	Reserve	30-Jun-96
820.030.4(1)	Ptn 1- Pelican Narrows - Parcel T & Other Lands	0.06	*4 Lots in Community*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.030.4(2)	Ptn 2 - Pelican Narrows - Other Lands (Private etc.)	61.30	*Lots & Blocks in Community*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.030.4(3)	Ptn 3 - Pelican Narrows Part 2 Reselection	0.24	*5 Lots in Community (Lot 6, Block 1 Lot 5 Block 2, Lot 6 Block 3, Lot 3 Block 4, Lot 5, Block 1)*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.031.08	Brabant Lake Reselection (File History-31, 31.3)	2,590.08	*Lat 56°8' Long 103°42'*	Active	23-Oct-03
820.031.09	Deep Bay Reselection (File History-31,31.4)	4,014.54	*Lat 56°23' Long 103°6'*	Reserve	
820.031.10	Junction 102 & 905 Reselection (File History-31, 31.5)	3,108.10	*Lat 56° 16' Long 103° 33'*	Active	23-Oct-03
820.033.02	Deschambault Lake Parcels A & B "Clarke Point" (File History-33,33.1)	2,876.20	*Lat 54°46' Long 103°23' (Lat 54 43 , Long 103 28, Parcels A and B on Plan 96PA17347)*	Reserve	22-Oct-98
820.033.08	Deschambault Lake Revised Parcel "B" (File History-33,33.3)	8,498.70	*Lat 54°46' Long 103°25'*	Active	23-Oct-03
820.033.09	Bear Point Selection	2,606.40	*Lat 54° 40' Long 103° 42'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.033.10	Cumberland House Reselection (File History-33,33.5)	13,355.10	*Lat 53°56' Long 102°2'*	Active	23-Oct-03
820.033.11	South Sturgeon Weir Reselection (File History-33,33.6)	420.48	*Lat 54°26' Long 102°8'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.033.12	Amisk Sturgeion Weir Reselection (File History-33,33.7)	23,737.68	*Lat 54°26' Long 102°8'*	Active	23-Oct-03
820.034.1	Southend Community Reselection	8.95	*Lat 56°19' Long 103°15'*	Reserve	17-Dec-9
820.034.4G	Southend Community Private Lands Delayed (File History-34,34.1.34.2)	5.41	*14 Lots in Southend*	Active	24-Jan-04
820.034.5	Southend Community Selection Delayed (File History-34,34.1.34.2)	314.45	*Pcls-D,E,FL5B6P75PA20497 (Parcels D, E and F, Plan 99PA23871 - Southend)*	Active	18-Aug-0

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation First Nation

820.035.1	Ptn 1 - Pelican Narrows Reserve North Extension	1,678.26	*Lat 55°33' Long 103°0' (survey says Lat 55 08 46, Long 102 55 47 (Parcel AM Plan 97PA04599)*	Reserve	22-Oct-98
820.035.3	Ptn 2 - Pelican Narrows Reserve North Extension Reselection	3,093.04	*Parcel AL 55°11"-102°55'*	Active	26-Apr-04
820.036.1	Sturgeon Landing Community Reselection	3.59	*Lots in NE13-61-30-W*	Reserve	17-Dec-9
820.038.1	Kinoosao Community Selection	2.37	*Lat 57°10' Long 102*	Reserve	17-Dec-9
820.039	Pelican Narrows, Block 3, Lot 4 in (Federal Crown)	0.25	*Lat 55°30' Long 103°0'*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.040.1	Crown Land Adjacent to Deschambault Lake - Reselection	763.02	*T 68 R8 and 10-W2 (Lat 54 54 29, Long 103 22 06, Parcels X, Y and Z and Plan 96PA21299)*	Reserve	22-Oct-98
820.041.5	Lands Adjacent to Sandy Bay	131.53	*Parcel N Plan No. 92PA05771 - Sandy Bay*	Active	07-Sep-0
820.042.3	Land Adjacent to Highway No. 135 Selection (Pelican Junction)	257.55	*Pcl A & B Lat 54°49' Long 102°47'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.043G	Surplus Training Residence in Creighton	0.32	*Lots 29-32 in Creighton*	Active	07-Sep-0
820.045.1	Ptn 1 - Sokatisewin Lake North of Highway 135 Selection	22.87	*Parcel A2*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.046.4	Reeds Lake Reselection	246.87	*Long 102°37' Lat 55°36'*	Active	09-Jun-04
820.047.2	Pita Lake Reselection	29.14	*Long 102°47' Lat 55°36'*	Active	09-Jun-04
820.048.1	Tocher Lake Reselection	93.20	*Long 102°16'W Lat 55°22'N*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.050.2	Taylor Bay Reselection	89.03	*Long 102°9'W Lat 55°41'N*	Active	26-Apr-04
820.051.2	Wasawakasik Lake Reselection	110.08	*Parcel N, Lat 55 33, Long 102 15*	Active	26-Apr-04
820.053.1	P.A. Correctional Centre Surplus Property Reselection	2.02	*S790 Pcl A Plan G4060*	Reserve	14-Jun-01
820.056G	Pillipow Lands	116.42	*NW2,N½3-49-1-W3*	Reserve	28-Jul-99
820.057G	Trembley Lands	64.75	*NE 27-47-26-W2*	Purchased	
820.058.2	Deep Bay East Reselection	2,524.03	*Parcel C 56°21' 103°55'*	Active	26-Apr-04
820.060G	Helm Deeded Lands	4.05	*Ptn NE 3-49-1-W3*	Reserve	28-Jul-99
820.061G	Pelican Narrows Lots in Blocks 20-22	1.34	*Lat 55°10' Long 102°57'*	Reserve	25-Mar-99
820.062G	Pelican Narrows Parcel "J"	0.53	*Parcel J Plan 60PA01640*	Active	
820.063G	Pelican Narrows Parcel "Q"	0.16	*Parcel Q Plan 78PA07045*	Purchased	05-Mar-04
820.064G	Ewanchyna Deeded Land	64.75	*SW 35-47-26-W2*	Purchased	17-Mar-04
820.065	Deschambault Lake Parcel W	3.33	*Parcel W Plan 95PA15329*	Reserve	
820.066	Kipahigan Lake	2,180.25	*Lat 55°28' Long 102°13'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.067.2	Booth Bay Reselection	205.99	*Parcels A & B 55 36 102 5*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.070	Oskotim Lake	883.03	*Lat 55°21' Long 102°28'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02
820.071.2	Pagato River Reselection	450.03	*Lat 55°53' Long 102°09'*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.074.1	Sokatisewin Lake South of Highway No. 135 Selection	385.55	*Pcl A Lat 55°25' Long102°28'*	Reserve	21-Mar-02

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820.075.2	Hewitt Narrows Reselection	30.35	*Lat 55°27' Long 102°01', Kipahigan Lake*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.077G	Schmalz Selection	0.97	*Pcl F of Frac E½9-48-26-W2*	Active	
820.078G	Antonuk Private Land	129.50	*N½ 13-36-4-W3*	Purchased	17-Jun-03
820.079(1)	Sturgeon Landing Community - SERM Lands 2	249.20	*Parcels D, E, G and H in NE 24-61-30-W1*	Reserve	23-May-0
820.079.3	Sturgeon Landing Community SERM Lands 2	224.61	*Ptn N 24, Ptns of 25, 26 and 36 all in projected 61-30-W1, E of river*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.080.1G	Sturgeon Landing Community - NMS Land Reselection (File History-36&.1)	0.08	*Lot 39 Plan No. AQ775*	Active	04-Oct-03
820.081G	Sturgeon Landing Community - Private Lands (File History-36,36.1)	60.28	*as per schedule*	Active	18-Jun-03
820.082G	Kinoosao Community - Private Lands (File History-38,38.1)	3.45	*11 lots in Kinoosao*	Purchased	10-Jul-04
820.084.2	Kinoosao Community - NMS Lands Reselection (File History-38,38.1,84)	2.03	*5 Lots in Kinoosao: L3 B4 P CP2764; L2 B5 P 89PA11816; L3 Block D P 89PA11816; Lot E Plan 89PA11816; Lot PR R Plan CP2764*	Active	
820.085	Ptn 1 - Denare Beach - SERM Lands (File History-30,30.5)	4.03	*Plan 80PA08252: Lots 12, 14 and 16 of Block 29; Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 41.*	Reserve	15-Jun-00
820.085.2	Ptn 2 - Denare Beach - SERM Land Reselection Delayed	41.20	*Parcel AT, Plan 96PA14561, Denare Beach*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.086(1)	Ptn 1 - Denare Beach - SHC Lands (File History-30,30.5)	0.59	*See Schedule*	Reserve	15-Jun-00
820.086(2)	Ptn 2 - Denare Beach - SHC Lands (File History-30,30.5)	0.08	*L6 B28 Pln 80PA08252*	Purchased	06-Jul-04
820.087(1)	Ptn 1 - Denare Beach - Private Lands (File History-30,30.5)	2.55	*See Schedule*	Reserve	15-Jun-00
820.087(2)	Ptn 2 - Denare Beach - Private Lands (File History-30,30.5)	1.17	*10 lots & 2 parcels*	Active	11-Aug-0
820.090(1)	Ptn 1 - Sandy Bay Private Lots	4.64	*42 Lots in Community*	Reserve	15-Jun-00
820.090(2)	Ptn 2 - Sandy Bay Private Lots	0.21	*6 Lots in Community*	Purchased	26-Jul-03
820.091.1	SHC Lands in Sandy Bay		*84 Properties*	Active	01-Feb-04
820.093	Wood Lake Selection	116.10	*Lat 55°21' Long 103°23'*	Reserve	13-Aug-0
820.096	Birch Portage Selection	1,381.83	*Lat 54°51' Long 102°36' (Parcels A and B of 00PA16102)*	Reserve	21-Nov-0
820.097	Medicine Rapids Selection	180.55	*Lat 55°13' Long 103°03'*	Reserve	06-Feb-03
820.098.1	SHC Lands in Sandy Bay 2	0.53	*5 Lots in Sandy Bay: L16 B8 P 63PA01456; L4 B9 P 81PA01668; L12 B18 P 95PA02385; L16 B18 P 92PA08891; L11 B19 P 95PA02385*	Active	
820.099G	Private Lands in Sandy Bay 2	1.42	*1 Lot and Parcel Q*	Active	17-Oct-04
820.101.1	Deep Bay Northwest Reselection	1,317.70	*Lat 56° 22' Long 103° 09'*	Active	02-Jan-05
820.102.1	Pelican Narrows Community - SERM Lands	0.18	*Lot 5 Block 2 & Parcel T 70PA19139 Block T Plan 89PA01126*	Active	15-Mar-05

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820.103	Pelican Narrows Community - SHC Lands Selection	0.33	*5 Lots in various plans*	Active	22-Jan-04
820.104G	Pelican Narrow Community - Private Lands Selection	104.84	*Several lots & parcels*	Purchased	13-Aug-0
820.105.1	Mukoman Resort Selection	1.77	*Pcl B Lat 55°25' Long102°28'3"*	Active	15-Mar-05
820.106G	Parcel C - Pelican Narrows Northern Store Selection	0.61	*Parcel C Plan CZ4323*	Active	
820.108	SERM Crown Land Adjacent to Kinoosao	394.58	*Parcels F, H, J and K*	Purchased	22-Aug-0
820.109G	Pelican Narrows - Equipment Storage Building Selection	0.81	*Parcel N, Plan 80PA02084*	Active	03-Aug-0
820.110G	Northern Lights School in Sandy Bay Selection	3.49	*L1-5,B2,P63PA01456&ParM*	Active	10-Sep-0
820.111G	Lot H & Parcels Q & Y in Prince Albert Selection	0.93	*P-67PA06490 & P-87PA24628*	Active	
820.112G	Parcels H & CC in Pelican Narrows Selection	0.40	*P-60PA02045 & P-79AA01353*	Active	
820.114.1	Lot 5 Block 6 Southend Community Selection (File History-34,34.1.34.3)	0.10	*Lot 5 Block 6 Southend*	Active	02-Jun-04
820.115.1	Junction of Highway 2 and 165 Selection	14.97	*Lat 54°45' Long 105°38' (parcels A and B)*	Active	08-Sep-0
820.116.1	Parcel AP Adjacent to Denare Beach	18.21	*Parcel AP Plan 96PA14561*	Active	19-Oct-04
820.117.1	Land South of Dumpsite - Denare Beach (Parcel AR)	18.21	*Lat 54 30 30 Long 102 04 30 (south of Denare Beach, Parcel AR)*	Active	19-Oct-04
820.118G	Deschambault Lake - SHC Lots Selection	0.77	*8 Lots*	Active	
820.119(2)	Ptn 2 - Deschambault Lake - SERM Lots (purchased)	0.39	*Lots 1, 2, 3 Block 10 Plan 70PA13617 and Parcel Q*	Purchased	11-Jun-03
820.119.1(1)	Ptn 1 - Deschambault Lake - SERM Lot Selection	0.10	*Lot 2 Block 12 Plan 80PA23669, Deschambault Lake*	Active	24-Mar-05
820.120G	Deschambault Lake - Private Lot Selection	0.11	*Lot 2 Block 13*	Active	17-Jun-03
820.121	SPMC Surplus Property in Pelican Narrows	0.40	*Lot E Block 2 Plan CZ 4323 in Pelican Narrows*	Active	17-Mar-04
820.122	Parcel D - Deschambault Lake Selection	1,201.96	*Lat 54 43, Long 103 28 (Ballantyne Bay)*	Active	25-May-0
820.123	Parcel C - Deschambault Lake Selection	944.97	*Lat 54' 43" Long 103' 28"*	Active	25-May-0
820.124	SPMC Land Adjacent to Casino Selection	2.71	*Most southerly 6.7 acres of Block A Plan G4060 in Prince Albert*	Active	26-Aug-0
820.126	Crown Land East and Adjacent to Parcel C - Deep Bay	1,799.70	*Lat 56 22, Long 103 50*	Active	

Appendix 47
AMISK-ATIK BROCHURE

How do I Become Involved?

Your input is valuable — You can help us make a better plan.

Concerns and recommendations may be presented to Local and Regional Advisory Board members. Your attendance at meetings in the planning area is encouraged. Copies of the draft document for the Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will be made available to the general public for review.

For further information, please contact

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Integrated Forest Land Use Planning *in the* Amisk-Atik Planning Area

An Integra orest Land Use Management Planning Process is underway for the isk-Atik Planning Area

The Amisk-Atik planning area covers almost 4.4 million hectares of forest land. Water resources include many large and small lakes and a significant portion of the Churchill River system. The Amisk-Atik Plan will develop resource and land use strategies for the region from Amisk Lake in the south to Reindeer Lake in the north, and from the Manitoba border to west of the Reindeer River.

The plan's name reflects both the geography of the region and the strong traditional ties of the area's Aboriginal people. "Amisk" refers to Amisk Lake and is the Cree word for beaver; "Atik" is the Cree name for "reindeer", a reference to Reindeer Lake.

The Amisk-Atik planning area is rich in resources, providing social and economic benefits and opportunities for economic development. Typical resource use includes fishing, hunting, eco-tourism, outfitting, trapping, mining and timber harvesting. Government, industry and communities are working together to plan the best use of the region's renewable resources in an integrated and environmentally-sound manner. The planning area encompasses most of the traditional lands of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

What is Integrated Resource Management ?

Integrated Resource Management (IRM) as defined in Saskatchewan`s Integrated Forest Resource Management Plan, refers to the "management of the whole ecosystem, including soil, water, trees, animals and plants to meet a variety of objectives." IRM allows for a broad range of resource uses to occur within the same area. A key component of IRM is the opportunity for resource users and the general public to be both informed and involved in the management planning process.

What is Integrated Forest Land Use Planning?

Integrated forest land use planning is the planning component of IRM. This process results in the development of a written Integrated Forest Land Use Plan that outlines preferred management guidelines for the planned and strategic allocation of land and resources. This framework will co-ordinate the overall management of all natural resources on crown land in the Amisk-Atik Planning Area.

How are Resource Users and the General Public Involved?

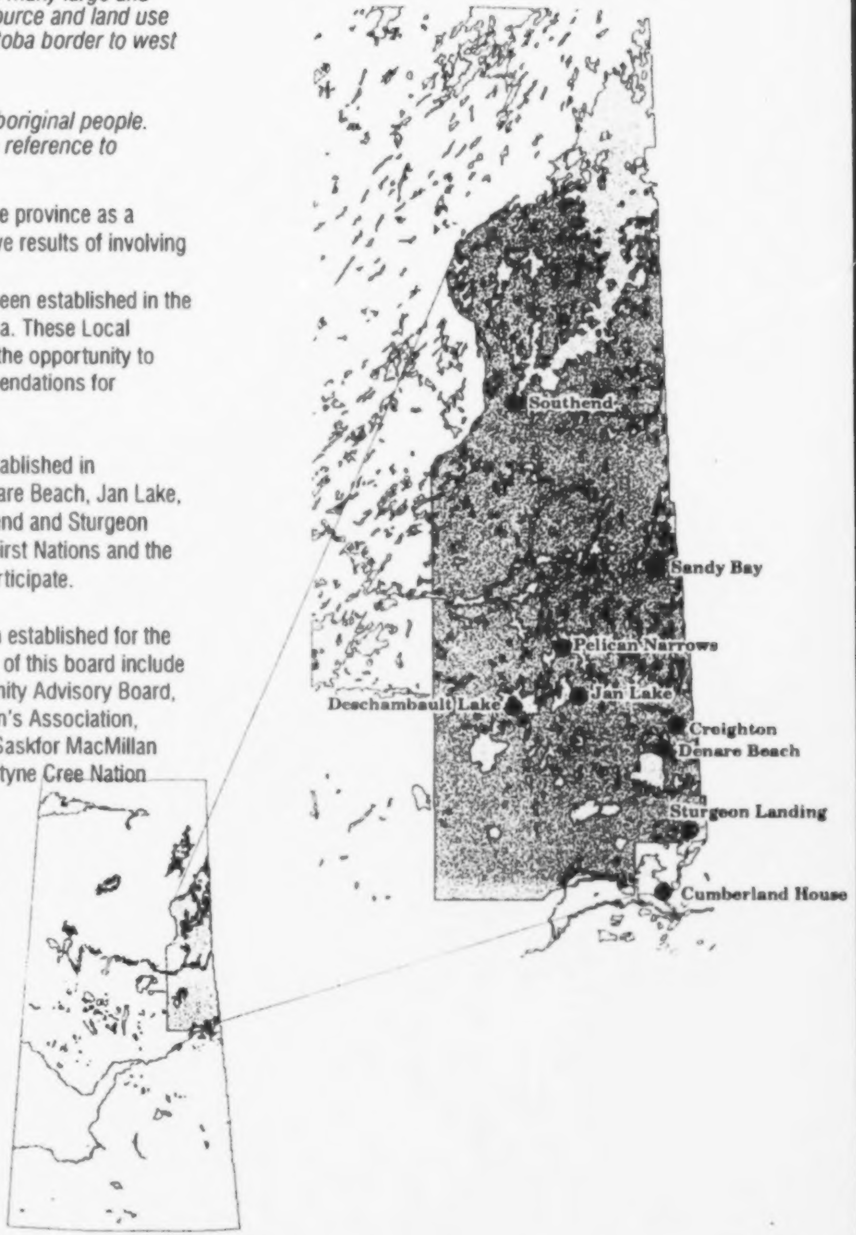
The final Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will potentially affect a wide range of resource users and individuals in both the Amisk-Atik Planning Area and the province as a whole. SERM recognizes the positive results of involving the public in the planning process.

Community Advisory Boards have been established in the communities within the planning area. These Local Boards provide local residents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns and recommendations for management of natural resources.

Community Advisory Boards are established in Creighton, Deschambault Lake, Denare Beach, Jan Lake, Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Southend and Sturgeon Landing. All resource user groups, First Nations and the public at large are encouraged to participate.

A Regional Advisory Board has been established for the Amisk-Atik Planning Area. Members of this board include a representative from each Community Advisory Board, the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Association, Saskatchewan Mining Association, Saskfor MacMillan Ltd. Partnership and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation forestry program. Representatives from provincial government departments such as Environment and Resource Management. Energy and Mines, Municipal Government and Northern Affairs assist the planning process.

The Regional Advisory Board discusses land and resource planning issues and concerns that have a regional impact. This board develops guidelines for the Integrated Forest Land Use Plan.



Appendix 18: SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMENTS, PUBLIC REVIEW MEETING COMMENTS, AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMENTS.

[A] OCTOBER 2000 TECHNICAL COMMENTS FOR DRAFT AMISK-ATIK INTEGRATED FOREST LAND USE PLAN

MANAGEMENT SECTION

General Comments

- It is not clear in the Plan what the RAB's expectations are for approval and implementation by Government. Action items in Chapter 3 do not address all of the recommendations.

- In the Pasquia/Porcupine Integrated Forest Land Use Plan the recommendations were grouped into guidelines for ongoing direction and action items for definite steps to be taken. This might be a useful way of approaching the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan. As the Plan recommendations now read, however, some appear to be action items and some to be guidelines. Some action items in the Plan read more like guidelines for ongoing direction. It is useful to see the responsible parties identified however some readers might infer that commitments have already been made.

- Many of the recommendations and action items are noted as being non-consensus items. If the RAB agreed to have these items included in the Plan, it would be useful to have them flagged more clearly (i.e.: putting them outside of the list and table of consensus items) so that someone reviewing the Plan would not overlook the fact that not all of the RAB agreed to those items. It is important in the approval process to see the reasons for non-consensus as this will alert Government to issues and interests that need to be considered. Government may decide not to implement those recommendations and action items.

- It is not always clear which department of Government will be responsible for accepting and carrying out the recommendations in the Plan. This must be more clearly defined before implications can begin to be understood by the Minister, his colleagues and their staff.

- If the Plan were to be approved as currently written substantial resources will be needed to carry out its recommendations. This includes costs of the consultation and approval processes that would be required for recommended changes and the costs for monitoring and enforcement. More details of resources required will be needed before this can be taken forward for approval.

- There are a substantial number of legislative and regulatory changes that would be needed to accommodate the recommendations. Procedures and realistic time lines for each need to be developed for inclusion in the request for approval.
- There is little mention of risk identification or prioritization, except for forest fires. This would be useful in prioritizing resources for implementation, and even for decision making in the approval process.

- The financial assurances that are recommended for many resource uses are not practical and, based on SE's experience, would not be acceptable to proponents. There are currently no regulations in place to require these.

- One concern raised was the Plan Administration-Implementation and the monitoring and evaluation of the land use plan (LUP). Although there are general guidelines on the implementation of the regional and local advisory boards, their development and role in monitoring and evaluating the LUP does not appear to be clearly defined. Consideration should be given to further describing the advisory board's role in the monitoring and evaluation process.

- More work could be done in regards to expectations in future LUP processes, what is legally doable, what would need legislative change, etc. It is difficult in public involvement processes to try and identify all potential limits but identifying what we can helps to keep from creating false expectations around items that cannot be delivered. This should not however, stop the public from identifying policy and legislative gaps/desired changes to legislation, but the public should be made aware that legislative changes take time (4-5 years in some cases) and must represent good law for all of society, not just one sector or area.

- In the acknowledgment related to the EA Branch role, the Act only applies to "developments" as defined in the EA Act. While our policy is to conduct reviews on Project Proposals to make the decision if an Environmental Impact Assessment is required, statements/requirements in the Land Use Plan cannot supercede the authorities in the EA Act. The use of the word development has many meanings to different people, the application of the EA Act is bound by the definition in the Act, therefore it may be misleading to some members of the public to say that "all plans for future development activities are fully evaluated..." This might be a subtle difference, but best not to create false expectations.

- Guidelines can't be enforced. They are not Law. This assumption creates false expectations in the public...disappointment when this cannot be achieved... and undermines the public involvement process as a whole. Some clear statements around what can and cannot be 'enforced' and what things depend on proponents being good neighbors and willingness to meet guidelines may be required.

- There is a need for a general cost estimate summary to be included in the report. The public and the government should be provided with at least a general estimate of what the recommendations are expected to cost. A suggested location for the summary is near the end of the Management Plan, following the Recommendations and Action Items. The Recommendations include numerous new and expanded programs, developments, studies, and the hiring of new staff, mainly by SE. From a quick tally going through the report, the recommendations include hiring a new public health officer, two forestry technicians, a wildlife biologist, and 12 conservation officers. This also includes two new SE offices and presumably expanded offices and additional support staff to accommodate the new personnel. Major infrastructure upgrades are also recommended. The appropriate departments should be able to give general cost estimates of the recommendations.

- The plan could go further to provide the public with outdoor recreation and education opportunities and to protect areas with significant natural, cultural, and wilderness values and to support the tourism industry.

- Setting aside some areas as Ecological Reserves under the Representative Areas Network ensures the establishment of benchmark areas, and includes areas with a combination soil formation factors or enduring features to ensure protection of biodiversity. This does not address the need to capture examples of the outstanding and distinctive scenery of the area unless this occurs coincidentally. The provision of areas for representation of biodiversity, scenic qualities, cultural heritage values and landscape distinctiveness along with the provision of wilderness opportunities and where necessary developed facilities as well as the provision of educational programming is a function for which Saskatchewan Parks System exists. Other than the recommendations regarding the protection of Frog Portage and Meridian Creek the plan makes no recommendations for the establishment of areas under *The Parks Act.*

- The Draft Plan's zoning system proposed includes a Sensitive Zone which deserves recognition for the extensive areas, particularly lake and river shorelines and corridors, so zoned. The list of conditions associated with these are for the most part, types of guidelines which one would hope good land use management would apply on all crown lands. To ensure that the intent is met for the most significant of these areas, two suggestions are offered: tighten the restrictions; and consider bringing some of the areas under legislative categories which would ensure the intent was addressed.

- A specific suggestion which was made early in the planning process related to the high suitability which the Churchill River and Sturgeon Weir Rivers have for nomination to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) and designation as Canadian Heritage Rivers. While the plan makes a general reference to this it avoids specific mention of the existing nomination of the Churchill and high ranking of the Sturgeon Weir in a Provincial Rivers System Plan. Given the somewhat controversial nature of this it is perhaps understandable, however given the purpose of a land use plan to sort out seemingly conflicting land uses this is a lost opportunity.

- Some decisions regarding not including more areas in the protection zone seem to have been predicted by the lack of consensus from the mineral interests. Reconsideration of this zoning is encouraged. Even though the majority of this area is free of Crown Mineral Reserves and even though the mineral potential is acknowledged as high, actual numbers of new producing mines does not appear to be occurring at a rate which justifies not placing stricter surface controls on more areas where other values such as wildlife, aesthetics, and wilderness are significant.

- When discussing integrated forest land use plans, it is important to remember that there are limits on government power:
- > In our legal system, the mere fact the government is *the government* does not give it any particular rights or powers. On the contrary, all government actions must be specifically authorized by either legislation or the Royal Prerogative. As a result, government officials must be able to point to the lawful authority permitting their actions.

- In some cases (e.g. international trade law such as NAFTA) there may be absolutely nothing that the Saskatchewan government can do to change the applicable law.

- Laws that are not based on legislation will also apply to the plans. For example, administrative law principles (e.g. fettering of discretion, unlawful subdelegation of authority, the duty of fairness, etc.) Will apply to every government decision. The plan must conform to these administrative law principles and it is not exempt from them.

- The draft Amisk-Atik plan contained a lot of ideas that would require significant expenditures on the part of the government. It appears that the Local Advisory Board may be of the opinion that, if the Minister "approves" the plan, that the budget dollars for those proposals must follow.

- Finance and Treasury Board have a specific and rigorous procedure, governed by *The Financial Administration Act, 1993,* that Departments must participate in each year. This process will ultimately determine how much money each Department will receive in a given fiscal year. These budgeting decisions are again made at senior levels of government and final decisions are not delegated to people outside of government. Section 28 of *The Financial Administration Act, 1993,* requires that "[e]very payment out of the general revenue fund is to be made under the direction and control of the Provincial Comptroller and in the manner that the Provincial Comptroller may direct."

- The acknowledgments on Page 4 could include a statement acknowledging the mandates of the various government departments operating in the planning area. One government department can not commit another government department to items beyond its legislated responsibility.

- One of the Plan Principles (Page 9) is to "recognize and be consistent with current legislation and policies, and recommend changes where appropriate." Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation (SHT) has a number of issues and concerns relating to policies and programs that the draft plan does not address. One of the purposes of the plan should be to co-ordinate policies and programs.

- A general comment on the Land Use Plan is that it is focused on local needs and priorities. There is little or no consideration of provincial priorities. There may be at times that provincial priorities conflict with regional priorities and the greater good must prevail. Hydro development may be one such example. That being said, SaskPower recognizes that any future development must result in significant local net benefits unlike as has happened in the past. Local participation, possibly ownership, is likely to be a key feature of any development in the region. For example, the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation is currently reviewing hydro potential in the region with the goal of identifying economic development opportunities for themselves. Under the new deregulated environment developing in the electricity industry, SaskPower need not be the proponent of future hydro projects.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Purpose of the Management Plan

The second paragraph on page 4 describes where the plan is applicable. This paragraph should be revised to indicate (as was done with reserve lands) the applicability or relationship of Recreation Sites, as described within the Parks Act, to the Land Use Plan. At this point within the plan it should be stated that Recreation Sites are treated as exclusions. It should be stated that there are mechanisms in place such as The Parks Act, Provincial Park Resource Management and Recreational Activities Guidelines, draft Conservation Action Plan, Parks in the 21st Century, etc. to address park land management. Recommendations by the RAB related to coordinating Recreation Site planning with the overall intent of the Plan need point to these mechanisms.

Goals, Objectives and Principles of the Management Plan

Table 1.1 includes the objective of encouraging use of local goods, etc. This goes beyond the purpose of a land use plan and relates more to a marketing strategy within an economic development plan.

The third principle implies that the plan does not support benefits accruing to users from outside of the Amisk-Atik. This would be difficult to achieve given that resources are controlled by the Province and that Canada is party to the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Integrated Forest Land Use Plan Approval Process

"Approval does not elevate the plan's legal status beyond what the Act has conferred." A brief section titled "Legal Implications of the Amisk Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan" should be added, that would expand on this sentence.

Chapter 2: Land Use Management Zones

Section 2.2.1 Protected Zones would benefit from a table summarizing guidelines for areas and sites within those zones. This would make it consistent with and comparable to other subsections dealing with other categories of zones.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Common Allowed/Not Allowed Activities

It is difficult to imagine that all of these guidelines need to apply to all of the different types of sensitive zones (sensitive watersheds, aesthetic zones, sustainable resource use, and preservation of traditional lifestyles). For instance, would the guidelines in areas zoned for preservation of traditional lifestyles necessarily be required in sensitive areas that require special care for aesthetic purposes? Wouldn't aesthetic zones require guidelines related to line of sight considerations that would not be considered in other areas?

Including general guidelines such as "Must minimize impacts to traditional land use, fish and wildlife" under every category of activity causes the activity specific guidelines to be lost in the rhetoric.

It has been suggested that the tables, and sections in Chapter 3, be ordered from least risk to sustainability to most risk, with this explained in the introduction to the section. This would also acknowledge the significance of traditional aboriginal occupancy and use. The order might not be so obvious and could be debated. However, starting the ordering with traditional resource use should be considered.

Why does the guideline "Must minimize impacts to traditional land use, fish and wildlife" appear in the collection of guidelines for sensitive zones. Would not this guideline apply to all of the planning area? Including it in the table for sensitive zones means that those guidelines that are especially critical for the sensitive zones are lost in the large volume of text.

The Plan also recommends that no exotic species be introduced in Sensitive Zones. One can then infer that it is not a concern outside of Sensitive Zones, which SE would not agree with. Despite this concern SE finds it difficult to control species introduction during baiting of big game species or at backyard bird feeders or those set up by eco-tourism operations. SE is recommending the use of native species for decommissioning and stabilizing slopes, though currently SE authorizes the use of fall rye and barley because they are so effective and eventually die out.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Operating Guidelines for Forestry

Do Government or development companies now pay compensation to anyone? Who would be eligible for compensation? Who would pay it (forestry company, mining company, Government)?

The item on utilization standards is not clear. Some examples would be helpful. What would be the implications of lowering utilization standards or raising utilization standards?

Mandatory decommissioning of roads is currently a requirement unless the road will be needed in the near future and the proponent is maintaining it. Resource developers are usually agreeable to decommissioning their roads. However, other resource users sometimes oppose decommissioning of roads that have allowed them access to other resources. It would be helpful if the RAB could suggest some access management strategies for the Amisk-Atik.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Operating Guidelines for Mining

What utilization standards are they proposing? SE encourages optimum utilization but does not specify standards. It would be very costly to implement such a program and likely not warranted since the mining companies will attempt to cover their mine development costs by extracting as much mineral from the rock as they can.

What reporting does the RAB want made mandatory and for whose review? At what level of impact is it recommended that the public be informed. To inform them of all exploration activity that is happening in the area would be a costly endeavor and likely not of interest.

There are no legal requirements for financial assurances for exploration projects. This would require new legislation.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Operating Guidelines for Mining

What reporting does the RAB want made mandatory and for whose review? At what level of impact is it recommended that the public be informed. To inform them of all exploration activity that is happening in the area would be a costly endeavor and likely not of interest.

There are no legal requirements for financial assurances for exploration projects. This would require new legislation.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Operating Guidelines for Sand and Gravel Quarrying

Some sand and gravel pit operators would not have the resources to contract out for comprehensive development plans nor would they have the ecological education to do this themselves. SE cannot do this for the operators given current staffing levels.

For Sand and Gravel Quarrying:

- requirements for comprehensive development plans. The Department obtains permits for these operations. Any conditions are specified in the permits.
- Compensation must be negotiated with affected and third parties. Compensation for providing a facility on public land for the public interest must be questioned.
- Minimum 200 meter buffers from major access routes should be established. Aggregate sources are a scarce and limited commodity. Some buffer is desirable however if none can be provided landscaping should be considered as a viable alternative

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Guidelines for Commercial and Industrial Development

Financial assurances work for a limited duration operation, such as a mine, but would be difficult for a permanent establishment. This may be a burden to a small operator.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Operating Guidelines for New Road Development

Controlling the number of people and type of activity on roads would require a substantial enforcement budget. Is it recommended that SE do this or the company building the road?

What types of roads would financial assurances be required for? If the road is public or if public access is provided this would not be practical. Or would this just be during construction.

Problems with such access control or lack thereof could really limit the ability to reduce the level of impact resulting from the initial road development. Roads should be returned to productive forest or at minimum closed out and ripped up to limit access and increased hunting/predation pressures in the area.

Requires comprehensive development plans. Review and approval process must include mandatory consultation with locals and Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board. The Department follows the environmental review requirements and obtains the required approvals under that process. Any conditions are stated under the environmental approval.

Compensation must be negotiated with affected and third parties. Compensation for providing a facility on public land for the public interest must be questioned.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Guidelines for Eco-Tourism Development

What is the reason for not allowing eco-tourism development on islands? What constitutes developments in this activity? Would toilets, viewing blinds, cabins or portage structures not be allowed?

Financial assurance would be impractical. What potential impacts are contemplated, and what monitoring would have to be in place to justify this?

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Guidelines for Agriculture

Conventional agriculture cannot happen without the introduction of exotic species. More specifics would be needed here to implement this recommendation.

Table 2.1: Sensitive Zones: Guidelines for Conducting Research Activity

Research is currently regulated by SE's Special Collection Permit system. It functions well and researchers are subject to mandatory data reporting.

Table 2.2: Exceptions to Common Operating Guidelines in Specific Sensitive Zones

The title of the last column is confusing. Special Conditions might be a better description.

There is a need for clarification of "assess study requirements and initiate." No study has been defined.

Resource Management Zones

It would be useful if this section could somehow compare the existing regulations and guidelines with the proposed guidelines for the Sensitive Zones. This would facilitate informed public review.

Chapter 3: Management Strategies

Environmental Protection

In many cases the party responsible for abandoned contaminated sites is unknown. SE cannot commit to clean up all of these sites. Allocation of budget to do this work would be based on a risk assessment process and available budget.

While the RAB can provide comments to the Minister, just as any member of the public can, they can in no way fetter the Minister's decision related to the Environmental Assessment Act. Recommendations could be considered but should not be construed as direction to the Minister and therefore may or may not be implemented in a decision.

Contaminated sites have to be cleaned up immediately within a year. There are concerns both financially and time wise where this may be impossible if we know who did the damage. If we do not know who the contaminator is then one full year is impossible.

Ground Water Protection

It would be a major commitment to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan. SE does not have the staff or budget to commit to this, even if SaskWater would partner in the project. It could be considered a long term goal.

Stream Management

Public review of all proposed stream crossings would be cumbersome, likely doubling SE's workload related to stream crossing review, increasing the turn around times enormously and resulting in significant additional costs to the proponents. The current approval process has become more complicated and time consuming with the re-involvement of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). Was an analysis done on the benefit of this enhanced consultation vs. the costs? SE suggests that the RAB consider a minimum project size expressed in the dollar value of the proposed project.

Construction and restoration standards and their enforcement are currently regulated by Provincial and Federal legislation. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will soon have primary responsibility for fish habitat protection in the Province. So, any recommendations in this area cannot be addressed by SE.

Solid Waste Management

What are "approved waste disposal sites" and under current legislation can a municipality be forced to buy and take responsibility for waste disposal sites? One would expect that they would insist first on SE upgrading sites to meet standards, which SE cannot commit to given current budgets. SE would be in favour of selling these sites so that liability rests with the users. However, once sold, there would be no control over how the land was eventually used.

Waste disposal site standards and guidelines cannot be enforced since most sites do not meet current standards. Community and user willingness and involvement will be needed to close most sites and establish new acceptable sites.

The selling of landfills to the municipality is a positive thing from Governments position in that it puts the liability for the site on the people who are using it. The only downfall is that they may utilize the site for something other than planned and we have no controls in place to prevent it.

Vegetation Control

"Local people to be given preference for employment opportunities related to these vegetation control programs." This might be difficult to enforce on private or commercial organizations and may lead to unrealistic expectations on the part of community members.

Traditional Resource Use Cabins

Knowing the number of TRU leases would assist in determining the magnitude of this potential conflict.

Fisheries Management

The Plan states that the economic stability of the fishery is at risk but it is not clear what risk is of concern. Is it the decline in fish stocks, the decline in prices and markets, the decline in the number of commercial fishermen, or is it over fishing of current quotas that they are concerned about? Recommendations need to be geared to particular risks. SE allocates and manages fisheries based on biological principles. The administration of the allocation system and internal processes are frequently evaluated and re-designed to be more efficient and more responsive to stakeholders' needs. Are there any particular aspects of the allocation process that the RAB would like to provide input to?

The other recommendations related to information needs and conservation projects are supported by the Shield EcoRegion. However, with current staffing levels and budget SE cannot act on all of them. For instance, with the current staffing levels only one or two lakes in the EcoRegion can be effectively studied in any given field season. It would be useful if the Plan contained some priority ranking of these recommendations (even identifying particular water bodies) that indicate what the stakeholders in the Amisk-Atik feel are most critical and more particulars on their rationale.

Enforcement of regulations is not mentioned here. It is a critical part of fisheries management and one that needs to be highlighted in any discussion of fisheries management.

These recommendations would require a considerable increase in funding for fisheries in this area. Considering this, it might be useful to re-think the enhancement and stocking proposals, since they indicate a continued over harvest. It would be preferable to develop a fishery that can be sustained naturally.

Wildlife Management

Wildlife management would benefit from the following proposed strategies that are extended to compliment the guidelines presented in Section 2. These could be developed in partnership by Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and the Regional Advisory Board (RAB).

1. Establish an Ecological Monitoring Program that would include the hiring of a coordinator and an individual from each community to conduct regular interviews with people knowledgeable about their environment. This would be combined with ongoing biological monitoring by SE, and address a variety of things including, but not restricted to: woodland caribou observations; caribou range delineation and identification of critical habitats; identification of moose management zones; bald eagle and other raptor, and colonial waterfowl nesting locations; known, suspected and preferred wolf and coyote den locations; identification of rare and endangered plant and animal presence and habitat. People in the communities would first be asked if they wish to participate, then to develop a list of things they think should be monitored. The final list would be one agreed upon by SE and the communities. Local knowledge of indicators of climate change, singular and cumulative impacts from development on wildlife would also be included in monitoring. A subsistence harvest study could also be developed upon agreement with communities, that seeks to define current and future demands for "country food" through harvest of wildlife and gathering of plants.
2. Develop access management plans to govern road and trail development, use and decommissioning that is specific to each category of zone. This would be a joint effort between SE and the RAB.
3. Develop moose management plans for moose management zones identified by the communities.
4. Involve communities and the RAB in development of a Woodland Caribou Recovery Plan.
5. Address wildlife-related issues of logging on the Precambrian Shield.
6. Develop an Education and Communication Strategy to address Woodland Caribou as an endangered species.
7. The only recommendation is for game corridor preserves. The real problem is the development of new roads. Wildlife other than consumptively used species may be negatively impacted by roads because they can act as barriers to movement, causing habitat fragmentation.
8. Roads are not the only aspect of the proposed developments that will impact on wildlife. This section should include a recommendation that the forest will be managed for an appropriate age class distribution to maintain a habitat for all native species. We need to set objectives for the level of older forest to be maintained on the landscape, to provide habitat for the species that need it.

Forestry

Two additional forestry technicians and an additional wildlife biologist are recommended. Such a recommendation should be based on an analysis of the workload expected for actions items recommended in the Plan.

In recommending that PBCN and MeeToos acquire up to date TLE maps the Plan has identified an action item that Government could not enforce.

Mineral Exploration and Mine Development

Impacts related to exploration and test mining etc. may not be minimal and may require review pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act. The decision as to whether a project requires a full EIA lies with the Minister.

It is mentioned in the Plan Goal (page 8) and elsewhere that the goal is to "manage the use of the land and renewable and nonrenewable resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area." By way of clarification this only applies to surface activities related to the exploration for, and extraction of nonrenewable resources under SE's mandate, through the issuance of permits for exploration and surface leases for mining, and related environmental monitoring and enforcement activities. The plan does not in any way affect SEM's legislated mandate to manage and regulate the subsurface Crown rights and the associated nonrenewable resources through such activities as the issuance of mineral dispositions and the collection of fees and royalties.

Sand and Gravel Exploration and Development

A 200 meter buffer is not always possible. In flat and sparsely vegetated areas a buffer of this width would not necessarily provide an aesthetic screen.

What is the rationale for closing the pit at the Sturgeon-weir River and for leaving the Matheson Road open up to the pit?

Performance guarantees are mandatory for all private clients at this time. Exceptions include Highways, Rural Municipalities, FMA Holders, Towns, Villages, Cities, and will (unless there is a change to the proposed new policy) include First Nations.

There has been concern expressed regarding the policy and process of obtaining a sand and gravel disposition. SLMB is currently reviewing the Sand and Gravel policy and will take these recommendations into consideration. The one recommendation regarding Highways being required to pay compensation should they exercise their first right of refusal after the exploration permit stage can be taken to Highways for discussion. Presently there is no legislative authority which requires Highways to pay compensation.

Improvements to highways within the planning area may require relocations, earth and granular materials from outside the highway right of way or lease area. Saskatchewan

Highways and Transportation requires the right to assess relocations, and to search and test for aggregates within a reasonable distance of their facilities. This is critical to the provision of a good quality highway network.

Financial assurance and performance bonds are required to ensure mandatory decommissioning of completed projects. The department does not provide performance bonds.

Initial access to the resource should be provided to local people. The department is providing a service for the public and in the public interest. Providing initial access to others is not an option.

The Department has a number of policies, regulations, and guidelines that apply to roadway construction and aggregate requirements. There should be a discussion on the Department's policies and regulations.

Issues such as cost sharing the development and utilization of sand and gravel resources with other potential users must be addressed. Another issue is the item about paying compensation (total costs and opportunity costs) to permit holders when the first right of refusal is exercised. Providing a management plan for sand and gravel resources could require considerable work and change as budgets change. Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation does not see waving the first right of refusal. Highways will negotiate on a case by case basis each potential aggregate resource. It is DHT preference that local contractors/etc have their own source and do not use DHT sources. DHT reviews all first right of refusal applications with this in mind.

The Department of Highways to provide their requirements and management plan for sand and gravel resources in the planning area to Saskatchewan Environment. SHT works on an annually approved budget. Future projects are subject to annual review and approval. Existing pit and quarry lease sites have been identified to LUP.

Monitor and ensure that no one company, Government Department, or individual user be allowed to monopolize sand and gravel resources. SHT is the largest user of this resource in the province. This resource is being used for publicly funded projects in the public interest.

Infrastructure Development

Roads

In 2000 approximately 25 km of Highway #106 from the Limestone Lake access westerly was resurfaced. In addition the two bridges at the Sturgeon Weir River were reconstructed.

Section 3.8 (page 54) and 3.8.1 (page 55) discusses roads with specific reference to Hwy.#106, Hwy #135, and Hwy #102. These highways are described in a negative light. These highways have functional classifications, which are influenced by average daily traffic, type or purpose of trip, length of trip, level and type of population centre served. The classification has some bearing on the roadway standard and the roadway in place. Highways provide a critical component of land use and develop over time.

Action Items (Page 57):

1. Undertake a study of the road network and road access needs in the Amisk-Atik Land Use Planning Area, and involve the Regional Advisory Board in the process.
   - The North Northeast Transportation Planning Committee was formed in November 1999. The committee includes a number of communities in the land use planning area. The committee is to improve local input in the planning of roads, airports, and other transportation systems. The Committees provide advice to Government, industry, and other stakeholders regarding transportation issues in the region.

2. The Hanson Lake Road, Highway #106, is to be upgraded to a construction specification similar to the Prince Albert/La Ronge highway.
   - SHT has standards for upgrading specific roads. These standards consider the highway classification, function, and traffic volumes.

3. The access roads to Pelican Narrows, Jan Lake, Sandy Bay, Southend, Deschambault Lake, and Kinoosao to be improved as soon as possible in terms of width, alignment, grade, and paving to ensure safe and efficient all-weather access to these communities.
   - All-weather access currently exists to the communities listed. SHT has to consider program funding, budgets, and overall province wide priorities.

4. Apply to the Department of Highways to participate in the Northeast Transportation Committee to assist development of a five year plan for highway development.
   - The present transportation committee members come from a number of the same communities as the land use planning committee. Greater communications between the two groups is required.

Electrical Services

"The unreliability of electrical supply to communities in the planning area is a concern to people who live and work in the Amisk-Atik. The security and quality of power are

equally significant issues."

When compared to the southern portion of the province, the electrical service in the Amisk-Atik area would appear to be a concern, but when put into perspective, the reliability is as good as can be expected. The reliability of the electrical system is affected by the following items:

- The high voltage power line that supplies power to the communities of Brabant/Southend and Island Falls to Deschambault is exposed to weather from Island Falls to Points North which is 430 km long.
- The lines in the Island Falls to Deschambault area are very long (200 km), thus customers are exposed to problems and weather conditions over a large region. The customers in this area are serviced from district offices which are often an hour or more away from the customers. The low customer density does not justify additional offices or staff at this time.
- Brabant and Southend are served from the La Ronge office where staff are 2.5 hours away before they start looking for the problem. Kinoosao requires staff from La Ronge to fly in and this is very weather dependent on getting the problem corrected. This area has been out of power for 3 days before repairs could be made.
- Being in the northern half of the province, the lines have been constructed in forested areas, which then make them prone to tree contacts, which can cause outages.
- Due to the length of the lines and changing loads, voltage levels can vary greatly and as such voltage regulators have been installed in the lines to address this concern. Regulators incorporate mechanical tap-changers which require regular maintenance and eventual replacement.

"Action Item: A system study of the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan area to be undertaken with respect to the future needs for electrical services by industry and expanding towns and businesses, with strong involvement of the Regional Advisory Board and local communities."

Based on historical data and on known developments in this area, the future loads have been projected for the next ten years. These load forecasts have then been used in load flow runs (computer simulations) to determine the adequacy of the existing system and to determine what future upgrades are needed and when. Based on the most recent projections it would appear that the existing 25 kV system from Island Falls to Pelican Narrows will require some reinforcement in either 2002 or 2003. By 2008 it is expected that further reinforcement will be required in the Pelican Narrows and Deschambault Lake region.

At the present time the plans for 2002/03 are to build a double circuit 25 kV line from Creighton to the Jan Lake corner and install a 110-25 kV substation at this corner. The addition of the Ainsworth sawmill or of the Foran mine will require that the in-service

date for the 100-25 kV line will be moved ahead to correspond to the in-service date for either of these projects.
After this winter's load tests the load forecasts will be reviewed as well as the reinforcement plans. SaskPower is willing to meet with The Regional Advisory Board to discuss the reinforcement plans if requested.

"Action Item: Remedial Measures to be undertaken to secure the existing power supply in the Amisk-Atik area with respect to the security of lines and equipment from tree falls and other natural occurrences, to reduce outages and voltage fluctuations."
The SaskPower Prince Albert Region will continue carrying out tree trimming along the line right of ways and continue to review protection coordination as the load continues to grow. See comments under 3.8.

Other Infrastructure Issues

Page 59 discusses the need for a feasibility study regarding upgrading the Pelican Narrows airport. There is an existing study that reviewed the airport requirements.

Cabins

The Plan refers to a proposal by the communities of Creighton and Denare Beach to increase the number of recreational cabins within a zone defined by the N-66 Trapping Block. Some of the potential impacts that could result need to be discussed and resolved by the RAB before making a recommendation to SE. Following is a list of SE's concerns:

- Disturbance of riparian zone wildlife habitat could become significant for wildlife if too many cabins, too close together, and depending on associated activity, are permitted.
- Lake and other locations with, or close to road access may become the target of local pressure to expand road access to cabins in the area, degrading the wilderness atmosphere and impacting wildlife from increased disturbance and hunting.
- There may be demands for electrification where locations are close to power-line corridors. This could result in considerable wildlife habitat disturbance, a much expanded demand for vegetation suppressed utility corridors, use of chemical herbicides, etc.
- An increase in recreational cottaging will result in increased pressure to apply aerial pesticides to control spruce budworm, forest tent caterpillar, mosquitos, black flies, etc., with implications for negatively impacting wildlife in the area generally.
- Bears, beaver, wolves, coyotes, and red fox will be some of the species more aggressively targeted for control by cottage owners unwilling or unable to deal

with problem animals.

- this proposal is the beginning of establishing an infrastructure in wilderness for a much greater human population on lands that are currently used extensively by people for subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering. The subsistence lifestyle will be adversely affected in the long-term.

Following are a few things that could be done to address some of the concerns noted above:

- Follow guidelines for protecting important wildlife habitat, and riparian zones.
- Allow no development in quiet, shallow bays of lakes with emergent vegetation that could be important loon and grebe nesting habitat.
- Allow no development on or within 1.6 km of lake islands and shoreline where there is evidence of colonial waterfowl nesting, moose or caribou calving and rearing, wolf or coyote dens.
- Use a communication strategy to promote tolerance of wildlife species such as beaver, bear, wolves, coyotes, red fox, etc., that could become problems for cottage owners.
- Recommend effective cabin bear-proofing.
- Prohibit any consideration of road, trail and power-line development to remote cottages
- Place buffers of 1.6 km around known or suspected eagle and osprey nesting locations.
- Prohibit any consideration of insect pest control for aesthetic reasons.
- Consider reducing the recommended number of additional cabin leases that would be permitted within the zone.
- Promote fire-proofing of cabins.

Wild Rice

SE is concerned about the biological and economic/social impacts of wild rice on aquatic ecosystems. However, the negative impacts of wild rice are not high compared to other risks that ecosystems face and no action is planned. If the Plan could indicate the level of risk that the RAB sees with this impact, compared to other impacts, it would assist the Shield EcoRegion in priority setting.

A detailed study to assess possible impacts to lake ecosystems resultant from growing wild rice would have to be over a long term (minimum 5-10 years) and would be very costly. Since no significant environmental impacts from wild rice production have been observed over the long period of wild rice development, it is questionable if allocating more funds to study this question would be the best use of limited resources.

Agriculture

Did the RAB discuss the kinds of agriculture that would be feasible and the possible impacts on ecosystems? There is concern that the thin and unproductive soils of the Precambrian Shield would not be suitable for agricultural development.

Allowing agricultural leases to be purchased would result in the land use being converted at the pleasure of the owner. There are no other controls in place to ensure that the land remains agricultural. Eventually the limited areas that are suitable for agriculture might no longer be available for agriculture.

Why promote agriculture in an area so poorly suited to the growing of most crops due to the limited amount of frost free days (see Section 2.8 Climate of the background document)? Livestock in the forest would certainly cause ecological problems unless significant financial resources are invested up front. Cattle cause more damage to streams, fish habitat and riparian areas than forestry operations and unless adequate fencing and alternative water supplies are provided, no new grazing leases should even be considered. Livestock also eat and trample on vegetation and regenerating trees and cause soil compaction, reducing future growth on the site. Increasing agriculture will also lead to an increase in non-native species into an area which to date has not been significantly impacted.

The recommendation that agricultural leases be made available for purchase after five years of proven use does not fit into current policy. The problem is once the lease is purchased we have no land use controls to ensure they continue to pursue agricultural activities.

Hydro Electric Development

Hydro electric development in the area would be subject to review pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Act.

"Regional Advisory Board Recommendations: The Regional Advisory Board is not in favour of any hydro development on the Churchill River at this time (e.g. upgrading/expansion of the existing facility at Island Falls, and the developments at Witego Rapids)."

It is not clear if this recommendation also applies to development of a generating unit in the existing Whitesand Dam as proposed by the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. This proposal would not affect the current water management regime on the Reindeer and Churchill Rivers. The proposal is not active at the present time.

"Regional Advisory Board Recommendation: The lands associated with the potential full supply line (FSL) reservoir for the Churchill River Power Project at Wintego Rapids should be in accordance with the Amisk-Atik Land Use Plan zoning system."
It is not clear what is meant by this recommendation. We assume it is meant to be read in conjunction with non-consensus recommendation on page A6-2: "if a development is being considered near the restricted area, it should be subject to verification by ground survey to ensure it is outside the restricted area being defined by elevation 338.0 meters and 332.0 meters ASL." This is in accordance with our request to the Board.

Camping

SE currently has no regulatory authority to limit the number of people traveling through Crown land.

Government approval of the Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan will not mean commitment to recommendations or action items related to Recreation Sites as they are excluded areas. The Plan should provide these recommendations as ideas and advice for SE to use within park land planning mechanisms.

Tourism

The Plan area is within the region of the Northern Saskatchewan Tourism Inc. yet there is no role identified for this organization.

The Plan recommends that SE reassess the current fish allocation system to allow for increased outfitting opportunities for Aboriginal people. SE and the Saskatchewan Outfitters Association (SOA) have formed a working group to develop usage standards for outfitters with respect to day use lakes. It is hoped that this process will free up some day use lakes that can then be reallocated to commercial fishermen, existing outfitters wishing to expand, or to new outfitting applicants. Commercial fishing and traditional resource use by Aboriginal peoples are also important to the residents of the Amisk-Atik area. Expectations of an expanded outfitting industry must be tempered by the fact that the fisheries resource is limited. Trade-offs between these users, as well as the angling public, must be made if the fisheries resource is to be sustained into the future.

SE is concerned with sustainable resource use and environmental impacts. A party interested in developing an eco-tourism operation on Crown land must submit a detailed proposal to SE. It will be dealt with under the present system of permits and commercial leases. SE will not commit to developing operational guidelines for eco-tourism operations. The eco-tourism industry must take responsibility for some of the strategies in the Plan.

Page 64 and 65 talk about "reassessment of current resource allocations". SE may have legal obligations to its current resource users so SE may not be able to carry through with the extent of reassessment envisioned by the Advisory Board.

Enforcement

Enforcement of leases is not a high priority in the Shield given the low risk of environmental impact and the current staffing levels. Increased staffing would allow more activity on this issue. A more complete rationale for increased enforcement staff is needed. What gaps in SE's present level of service are most significant and cause the greatest risk to environmental quality and sustainable resources, from a Amisk-Atik regional point of view? What would be the benefits of an increased number of enforcement personnel? What would be the costs associated with staffing 12 additional conservation officers (salary costs, office space and residential accommodations)? This information is needed for Government to make a decision on the recommendation.

Consultation

This seems to suggest that resource use would not take place unless there was consensus between all affected communities, the proponents and SE. Is this realistic? What level of development does the RAB contemplate as needing consultation? It would be helpful to see a table showing when consultation is recommended and with who. At present government at all levels is mandated to make most management decisions on behalf of their constituents. SE is not mandated to mediate between stakeholders but rather to make an informed decision that will mitigate impacts on all affected parties. To establish a mediation process would be a major change.

A more formalized structure for consultation as proposed would be very beneficial to all parties involved in proposed activities in the area.

A process needs to be developed to expedite consultation.

Another large concern is monitoring, forcing the proponents to monitor their activities. This is good and any problems that need mitigation should be discovered quickly. The proponents are also expected to hand over the information. Who are they going to give it to and what is going to be done with the information. It is a waste of resources to do the work and then store the information in a box in the basement somewhere. Thought should be given to developing a resource centre in the area to consolidate the information and made readily accessible to anyone in the area.

Chapter 4: Summary of Action Items and Timelines

Does this table include all of the actions that the RAB is expecting of Government. What do they expect the Government to do with the other recommendations? Another column with an estimate of the resources required for these action items would facilitate the approval process.

Some of these action items are the responsibility of parties outside of the Government. Government approval of the plan won't commit these parties to those actions. How will this affect the implementation of other action items and recommendations in the plan.

Chapter 5: Plan Administration (Implementation)

More detail on the proposed on-going activities of the RAB would be useful. What would the membership be and what funding is required? The RAB has not taken this opportunity to suggest delegation of authority. Was this discussed at all?

The level of consultation recommended throughout the Plan suggests that local advisory boards would have to meet twice monthly, in order to meet the timelines that SE has for approval of licenses, permits and allocations. The Shield reiterates that this level of consultation is impractical given the current authority of SE to make resource management decisions.

Suggested Wording Changes Within the Management Plan

A one or two page executive summary would be useful.

Figures 2-2 and 2-3: Are they referenced in Chapter 2 at all?

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Chapter 2: The Land and Resources of the Amisk-Atik Planning Area

Provincial Recreation Sites

The number of Recreation Sites in the Amisk-Atik planning area is 12. Table 2-1 needs to include Davin Lake, 25 ha, 0 campsites, -km 75, Hwy 905, 1986.

SaskPower Requests For Special Consideration To The Amisk-Atik Regional Advisory Board (through edits this section incorporated into Management Section 3.8.7)

Area 2
The discussion should include reference to the fact that hydro-electricity is a renewable energy source that produces minimal greenhouse gas emissions. As global, national and provincial concerns about climate change increase, there will be pressure to develop renewable energy sources to satisfy future energy demands and replace existing coal fired generation. Hydro development on the Churchill River is probably the most economic large scale renewable energy option in Saskatchewan. This is a significant change in circumstance from the 1970's Churchill River Study.
The non-consensus recommendation and the first sentence in the paragraph below it do not seem to correspond. We understand the recommendation to say the area is within a sensitive zone and the relative sensitive zone restrictions apply. However any developments permitted under the sensitive zoning will also be screened to ensure they are outside of the restricted potential FSL area.

Appendix 7 - Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines

Pursuant to the constitutional law how can one limit who can apply for a lease. There are probably folks in the south who would like to escape the "Rat Race." Such an approach may not be acceptable to the broader public, given these lands are Provincially not Locally controlled. Land Use Planning should be limited to decisions around Land Use, not "Use by whom."

Prior to deciding to open up recreational leases there should be some analysis as to the potential impacts of such a decision, road and trail development/improvement, sewage/waste issues, as well as costs of increasing the number of "value at risk" sites for fire protection etc. (Cumulative impacts approach). Some questions to consider might be: What impacts would such a proposal have on proposed harvesting plans in the area if each site ends up with a buffer around it? What kind of impact will having roads left open that would normally be closed after initial purpose met (e.g. forestry access). If roads are left open for cabin access (impact is not simply related to impacts of initial development, but also to duration) this problem would be worsened leases were eventually sold - permanently to an individual the road/access would be left open.

Appendix 8 - Discussions Resulting In The Amisk-Atik Recreational Lease Special Management Area - Proposed Recreational Lease Guidelines

From LAB meeting minutes, April 17, 2000, Creighton:

Review & Discussion of Recreational Cabin Lease proposal:

- received comments from the Regional Fisheries Biologist in La Ronge; they checked their files and found the following:
    - the current provincial fisheries allocation policy does not allow for additional recreational leases to be authorized for fully allocated lakes.
    - lakes that are fully allocated include: Amisk Lake (over-allocated, lake study planned for this summer), Little Mari Lake, Lapointe Lake.
    - utilized but unsure of allocation status:
      Wilson Lake and Phantom Lake
    - have been reported to have very poor fish stocks:
      Hamell Lake and Creighton Lake
    - have allocation available:
      Johnson, Annabel, Bootleg, Ruth, Wolverine, Carr, and Ward Lakes
    - no lake file information available:
      Ahren, Amy, Alder, Batty Arner, Limit, Reynard, Ruby, Saskman, Mansask, Jardine, Manton, Baht, Blight, Patton, Walker, Phillip, Wormworth, Wye, Russell, Le Barre, Nichol, Young, Reynolds, Wunder, Philfoster, Moroz, McCormick, Eccles, and Newman Lakes.
- concern received from some SE staff that having the policy only apply to local residents may infringe on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) - SE will get a legal opinion on this before a policy is finalized.
- N-66 Trappers' Association had a meeting April 16 to discuss the latest draft of the cabin proposal and they wrote a letter which stated their opinion, "The Trapper's of N-66 do not support the proposal of Recreational Cabins being developed in the N-66 Trapping Area."
- the N-66 Fur block Chair was asked to describe some of the reasons why they could still not agree with the proposal:
    - they feel that there are still many unanswered questions
    - the process for allocating recreational leases needs to be better defined (must ensure it is a fair process)

    - PBCN has significant interest in this area that should be resolved first (potential future TLE's)
    - other trapping blocks are concerned about this proposal setting a precedence for blocks other than N-66.
    - SE consultation process should be formalized; like what is currently happening with forestry operations in the Amisk-Atik area, would like that to apply to cabin development.
    - a dispute mechanism needs to be better defined.

  - also concerned about the impact on the fishery as presented by Regional Fisheries staff.
- these comments led to a very heated discussion between those in favour of the cabin proposal and those with concerns; there was a comment made suggesting that trapping should not continue, which caused trappers to feel their livelihood was being threatened.
- there is strong animosity about this proposal, and SE should understand that this is a contentious issue and there is strong disagreement between the cabin proponents and the trappers.
- at this point in the meeting it was suggested that this proposal should be submitted as a non-consensus recommendation to SE for consideration *(this issue was first raised about one year ago, and there have been discussions on the topic monthly since the fall of 1999)*.
- those in favour of the cabin proposal suggested that, given not reaching consensus, they wanted the proposal to be for 95 cabins, not 32 as in the last draft *(reasons for proposing 95 cabins instead of 32 should be clearly identified)*; the pro-cabin group was going to meet after the meeting to determine what approach they wanted to take (i.e., writing letters to the Minister of SE) - anyone can write letters to SE to express their opinions on land and resource issues.
- a table of economic figures on trapping was provided to the Regional Advisory Board at their last meeting, and there was concern expressed that it did not clearly represent the value of the trapping industry.
- the table was taken from a SE Fish & Wildlife Branch annual Summary Report that is based on fur sales within the Fur Conservation Blocks, [*Fur block statistics received from companies who buy fur or fur dealers (values paid to trapper from fur dealers - sometimes these are average prices)*] and does not equate a true value of trapping (note: fur prices are extremely low, which means less fur is trapped, and the return for trappers is also less than if prices were high).
- all the information accumulated from land use meetings to date by SE on the recreational lease proposal will be gathered for use by Sustainable Lands Management Branch when considering this non-consensus proposal (the results of this meeting will be discussed at the final Regional Advisory Board meeting in May before any information is forwarded for further consideration).

[B] FEBRUARY 1ST- APRIL 1ST PUBLIC REVIEW MEETING COMMENTS FOR DRAFT AMISK-ATIK INTEGRATED FOREST LAND USE PLAN

Southend Reindeer Lake

- The plan should promote development of a marked snowmobile travel route from the northern communities to communities in the south that have developed trail systems. Use existing trails in the north, funding from Government for signs would assist development.

Cumberland House

- Forest Industry should employ local people whenever possible. Development of local companies to harvest timber in the Cumberland House area should be co-operatively developed with Weyerhaeuser and the community.

- Understand that no new outfitting can occur in the protected areas (Representaive Area Network) established as Ecological Reserves within the Amisk-Atik planning area. Existing outfitting can be maintained.

- Review of harvest proposals should protect lakes, rivers, streams and riparian areas. SE should ensure review of harvest plans involves the resource users and local people prior to plan approval.

- All proposed developments within the Cumberland House Community Development Circle must be presented to the Cumberland House Development Authority prior to SE approval.

- SE should ensure that Weyerhaeuser be required to do a land use plan for the area and that the 20 year forest management plan review ensure that local people are consulted in the approval process. Weyerhaeuser should be required to meet the same requirements as the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation partnership.

- SE should ensure consultation between Weyerhaeuser and the community of Cumberland House for all proposed operations in the area.

- Want more detailed information on commercial fishing including catch limits for individual lakes in the planning area included in the background section of the Amisk-Atik IFLUP . Accurate historical and current data is important to set the stage for forward planning.

- Seager Wheeler RAN should be dissolved to allow development opportunities for local people.

- Monetary support should be provided to support local advisory and/or co-management boards within the communities.

- Land use plans should be developed on a smaller scale, more regionally, so that plans developed reflect the wishes of the people in their immediate area.

- Communities should be allowed to work with the forest industry so that management plans consider selective cutting versus clear cutting.

- Cumberland House is against Weyerhaeuser developments in the area in that no economic benefits are coming to the community for forest operations conducted in their traditional lands.

- Traditional Resource Users want selective cutting to be implemented in their fur blocks so that wildlife can be maintained.

- Local people should have first opportunity to harvest timber and create local jobs and economic benefits to their communities.

- Local board members need to consult with their communities and ensure feedback on issues discussed is provided to the Regional Board.

- Consultation is not consultation if issues are not handled and solutions implemented. Listening is not consultation.

- Aboriginal Rights and not just Treaty Rights should be used within the planning document.

Creighton / Denare Beach / Sturgeon Landing

- Accountability of Regional Advisory Board questioned in that perhaps RAB should be appointed by the Minister through communities electing representatives. Regional Advisory Board names should be documented and made available through SE.

- Development of Beaver City, limestone rock crevices, and development in sensitive areas is possible as per RAB proposed recommendations.

- Wish to be able to purchase recreation lease, own property and have title to their developments. Feel that paying lease fees plus also being required to pay school and property tax is unfair when they can not own the land.

- need to ensure that potential development of Beaver City is covered within the Limestone Sensitive Area.(Add Limestone to table 2.3)
- Hayes Beach should be included as part of the Denare Beach Recreation Site.

- The old cabin on Missi Island that has a small gold mine adjoining the back room should be available for people to view and not be restricted by the sensitive zoning proposed by the Regional Advisory Board.

- should be a recommendation in the IFLUP regulating the water levels on lakes and preventing individuals or companies from altering water levels for their own purposes. ((one examples given would be the removal of beaver dams).

- section 4.7, page 10 from Draft Management Plan states, "This highlights the need for proper water management.... both quality and quantity. Also section 5.9 and section 7.8 cites importance of water quality to the fish resource. (should have more reference to the importance of water quality on fisheries resources in the planning area.)

- reference to section 3.11.1, page 81 of the management section regarding camping should be strongly encouraged and monitored and be initiated and completed as soon as possible.

- want to change Provincial policy to allow sale of recreation lands to the public; want to be able to purchase leased recreation lots along the South Sturgeon Road (south of Denare Beach).

- long term lease holders in good standing should be allowed to purchase their lease properties. Will respect the land and take better care of it if we own it. How do we prove to Government that we deserve to own land.

Deschambault Lake

- suggestion that special management areas for mushrooms and medicinal plants be documented as to what is at each site. Pictures of the sites could also be included.

- very good plan, lots to it, lots of work.

- concern expressed about quotas on commercial fishing from individuals in many communities; they feel that the allocation system between outfitting and commercial fishing is unfair.

- like the recommendation setting time frames for regeneration and tree planting required after timber harvesting.
- concerned with the clear cut harvest system proposed by the Partnership. Have had negative experiences with harvest companies in the past, especially in relation to the lack of tree planting after harvest operations are completed.

- trappers want to see some type of mitigation from forest companies / monetary compensation by companies should a Government policy that is applied to small independent operators and Forest Management Agreement Holders.

Jan Lake

- Ironical and hypocritical that in this plan we wish to; " encourage industries to work together in development of infrastructure and sharing of resources" and also shut down hydro development by saying, "The Regional Advisory Board is not in favor of any hydro development on the Churchill River at this time."

- A statement is made on page 58; "...a major part of the provincial generating system is located in the Amisk-Atik planning area at Island Falls on the Churchill River. This is gross exaggeration! The installed capacity of Island Falls is 95 MW. The total capacity of the Saskatchewan system is 2889 MW. Island Falls makes up 3% of the Saskatchewan generating system.

- can not see how this plan can be implemented as it is. Need to come to terms with what it is we want to see happen in the region.

Pelican Narrows

- consultation is really important and needs to be better.

- concerns expressed about SaskPower projects for proposed future hydro-electric developments. Several people do not want the non-consensus recommendation to be included in the Draft IFLUP. PBCN councillor said that Chief and Council don't agree with allowing SaskPower to limit development in the FSL area requested. Do not want more dams on the Churchill River.

- Regional Advisory Board does not want more dams on the Churchill River.

- If SaskPower thinks they can come to our land and destroy it with another dam they are sadly mistaken. We have seen what happened in the past and do not want it to happen again.

- we have had TLE requests turned down in the past because of consideration of future possible hydro development projects on the Churchill River. Government should know that we do not want more hydro development. We do not believe that SaskPower will not try to put in another dam. Local people do not want more dams.

- Government should work with the local people and protect more land.
- disappointed that many of the sensitive areas were not proposed as protected zones (Churchill River).
- good plan, I like it.
- 9 Treaty Land Entitlement selections have been made along the Churchill River, all were turned down.
- Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation lives on this land, few other people do. Government needs to work with the PBCN Band on all projects proposed in the planning area.
- TLE should be allowed anywhere in the planning area. Hydro development should not automatically reject PBCN requests.
- recommend that the Churchill River be zoned as protected/ not sensitive/ and that new dams for hydro development not be allowed.
- TLE is part of treaty rights. PBCN should be allowed to make selections in proposed protected areas.
- concerned that TLE request was turned down in Jan Lake RAN.
- want developments, jobs, and business opportunity for PBCN band members.
- recommend that the Jan Lake RAN be switched with the Churchill River sensitive area.
- members of PBCN did not understand the TLE Framework Agreement. Feel it was forced on them. There are things in the agreement the band does not agree with, for example 6 months for a community to be moved if the reserve is to be flooded / water which was not part of Treaty 6 being included in the TLE Framework Agreement.
- developments in the Amisk-Atik planning area should benefit local people.
- increased SE staff to service communities is required, training of Aboriginal People for these positions recommended.
- commercial fishers limits are being reduced, need fair treatment for PBCN/ Commercial fishers and not preferential treatment for outfitters. Outfitters should

not be treated more favorably than commercial fishers.

- Fish allocations need to be re-evaluated.
- pleased with the establishment of fish spawning closures, more should be established by resource users.
- another reason to protect the Churchill is to protect and enhance Sturgeon fish populations.
- not enough staffing to monitor and enforce fish spawn closures being created, local people should help and enforce closures.
- Wilkins Bay should have a fish spawning closure established.
- questions about possible impacts of establishing and growing wild rice, studies should be done.
- feel First Nations are not treated fairly, two sets of rules, rules for Aboriginal people and rules for others.
- more meetings to review the Amisk-Atik Draft IFLUP may be required.
- very important that the plan be implemented.
- Government should respect the RAB recommendations provided in this plan and implement them.
- people have volunteered their time and effort to assist development of the draft land use plan. The Local and Regional Boards may need monetary support to continue in future. A commitment by Government would be appreciated and money well spent.
- PBCN people would like to manage the land similar to the ongoing venture in Wisconsin.
- The land use plan is important to local people and needs to reflect local people and community interests.
- the plan must protect the environment and traditional hunting, fishing and trapping.
- the plan should set out areas where local people can harvest resources and

create jobs.

- the plan should provide good areas for forestry development that will benefit local people.
- the plan must protect water quality, specifically in the Churchill, Sturgeon-weir and Reindeer Rivers.
- there needs to be an ongoing co-management process involving communities to implement the plan. A process to do ongoing updates to the plan and do a comprehensive review every five years should be required.

Sandy Bay

- suggestion that a Natural Resources Committee for the community of Sandy Bay be formed and that all resource users and SE be part of the committee.
- water is a resource that is vital to the planning area and must be protected.
- alterations to the N-33 Trapping block were identified as a major concern for the community. Referred to Les Oystryk, Resource Area Manager, for investigation. Ongoing problem. Legal action is being contemplated.
- concerns about the allocation of lakes permitted for growing wild rice. Feel local people should be given first opportunity.
- lack of employment in the Sandy Bay area. Need to allow First Nations people access to the resources by making resource allocations available.
- agree with RAB recommendation that trappers should be consulted prior to establishing new wild rice permits in their trapping blocks.
- First Nations people want opportunities for tourism, outfitting, and want new proposed developments and improvements to existing developments to consult with communities and affected resource users prior to approval by SE.
- concerned with the fishing allocation system in place. There is no room for First Nation people; more than one outfitting operation should be allowed on many lakes. An individual should not get total control of the fishery on a lake, or group of lakes. Fees for day use lakes do not impact established outfitters and maintain existing status and allocation.

- concern with litter and waste management from outfitting camps; needs to be monitored. Waste ending up in community landfills becomes the burden of the affected community and should be the responsibility of the outfitter.

- tourist outfitters have total control of the fisheries allocations in the planning area. There is no access to the fish resources for First Nations people.

- very difficult for the community of Sandy Bay to get information and service from SE. Due to distance and lack of an office SE does not have a presence in Sandy Bay. The lack of available services is unfair, expensive, and creates a real hardship for the community. Monitoring, enforcement, and protection of the Churchill River also supports the requirement for re-establishing a SE office in Sandy Bay.(at least one day a week)

- training programs that would develop local people as Conservation Officers are highly recommended.

- Government needs better consultation with local people; mail outs can be accomplished through the local post office, $5 will get fliers placed in mail boxes, then it is the individuals choice wether they get involved.

- concerned that their is not enough consultation between the community of Sandy Bay and elected PBCN Chief and Councillors.

- more time is required to truly consult communities and northern people. For example SaskPower and SE representatives should spend a couple of days at a time in the community and not hold a two hour meeting, leave, and consider that to be true consultation.

- SE needs to acknowledge mistakes of the past and do whatever possible to rectify past issues.

Regina

- should set up information display at malls, public libraries and / or the university.

- question why recreation leases are allowed in the home area of Mr.Buckley Belanger, Minister of SE and not allowed anywhere else in Zone A. (Minister lifted freeze and allowed recreation lease developments in Peter Pond Lake area).

- letter from Mr. Keith Goulet stating that once the land use plan is completed the freeze on recreational cabin development in Zone A will be lifted.

- some vocal opponents of the recreation cabin proposal have leases for resource use in the planning area. These people are past and present employees of SE. We wish the same privilege regarding rec cabin development.
- the freeze has been in effect for twenty years, we feel it is time to lift the freeze and allow people to enjoy and utilize the area we live in.
- fish allocations are deemed to be fully or over allocated. We already fish the lakes that we are interested in having recreation cabin development on and do not see that cabin development would increase pressure on the lakes in the area.
- the number of cabins requested within the proposal of the Draft Amisk-Atik Integrated Forest Land Use Plan is flexible. We would be pleased to have the opportunity for less than the 99 cabins suggested within the proposal.
- N66 fur conservation area is where we live. We feel we also have the right to utilize resources and enjoy the area we live in. Our wish for an opportunity to obtain a recreation lease is confined to the area we live. We purposely have not expanded the proposal beyond the immediate area we live, respecting the rights of people who live in adjoining areas.
- no freeze exists north of 56 degrees latitude.
- possible impacts to trappers, commercial fishermen and other resource users can be reduced or eliminated by consultation as to numbers and locations that can be accommodated.
- sub-divisions are allowed and can be developed in Zone A through a SE review and approval process of submitted development plans. Why not individual cabins ?
- there are lakes in Zone A in our immediate area that are not fully allocated per the fisheries resource. These lakes would seem to be logical selections for allowing development of recreation leases.
- we feel the data that determines and sets lake allocations is suspect and deserves further consideration in light of the minimal impact that development of a small number of rec cabins would impose on the fishery.
- local area residents should receive first consideration when the freeze is be lifted.

If the freeze is lifted across the Province of Saskatchewan that's great, but we are primarily interested in our own area and do not wish to impose our wishes on people living in or outside the Amisk-Atik planning area.

- concerned that new legislation (Forest Act and Regulations/ 20 year forest management plan- Weyerhaeuser) eliminates the previously accepted 15, 30, and 90 meter buffer zones to protect water resources.
- would like to see a one half mile buffer zone around cabins / commercial enterprises maintained around forest harvest zones.
- all logging roads (arteries) should be constructed in wetland areas (winter harvest) so that access is not possible in summer.
- the above listed forestry conditions should be applied to all harvest operations in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Saskatoon

- excellent, good work.
- there should be more media coverage of land use planning.
- I think you have done a really supreme job!

Prince Albert

- very informative, excellent GIS products
- great, would be interested to learn more about how the monitoring process is going to work, and also progress on the development of an FMA for the planning area. Very informative, and not just useless information either.
- I consider this area as being relatively pristine. Realistically I don't think I can prevent development. However what I want to see is that this is not a development for development sake but that it takes into account the health of the forest, wildlife, and the lives and needs of the people that live and make their livelihood in the area, now and indefinitely in the future be looked after and considered on an ongoing basis.

NorthernTrappers Fur Conservation Convention (Prince Albert)

- concerns by people living and utilizing resources (traditional resource use/ commercial fishing) in the Amisk-Atik planning area that are not members of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, that they will be affected and not treated fairly. Concern that Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation will have authority over resource allocations and that others will require permission from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation communities such as Pelican Narrows for their activities and allocations to continue. (this is not true and was stated at the convention by Sustainable Land Management and Forest Ecosystems Land Use Planning staff).

- people living in Stanley Mission, Grandmother's Bay and Brabant Lake who are members of the LaRonge Indian Band want the Amisk-Atik planning area boundary on the west side to be moved so that Fur Conservation Area N-9 is moved into the North Central Planning Area and removed from the Amisk-Atik planning area.

[C] JULY 16, 2001 - INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AMISK-ATIK INTEGRATED FOREST LAND USE PLAN (draft version January, 2001)

Summary Checklist:

1) Link the 10 objectives and nine principles in the AA Plan to the recommendations and action items for the Resource Management Zone.

2) Define the practical difference in the AA Plan between the ten objectives and nine principles and how they are to be applied. Principles should be keyed to the relevant objectives. Modify the list of objectives and principles as suggested by the Review Team in order for the objectives and principles to fully represent the values of the residents in the planning area.

3) Modify the recommendations and action items so that inconsistencies are eliminated. Correct apparent contradictions and misplacement of topics in the recommendations and action items.

4) Write new text at the beginning of Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 that makes it clear that the Resource Management Zone recommendations and action items also apply to the Sensitive Zone, in addition to the Sensitive Zone guidelines and special considerations. This is necessary so that implementation of the plan is unambiguous. The plan should describe the process by which recommendations, action plans, special considerations, and guidelines were developed with the assistance of regulatory authorities and professionals such as biologists, foresters, sociologists, land use planners, or ecologists. This would strengthen the plan's adherence to 4 (1) (c) of the Forest Resources Management Act Regulations.

5) Write text that states what, if any, development or types of development is/are excluded from the Sensitive Zone and Resource Management Zone. This is necessary so that implementation of the Plan is unambiguous.

6) Write a new subsection that describes the relationship between RAB and SE and their respective mandates for implementation, monitoring, and amending the AA plan. Describe processes for public input into implementation, assessing, monitoring, and amending the AA plan. Define a dispute resolution process if consensus fails to reconcile differing views.

7) Write a new subsection that describes the criteria to be used in plan monitoring and

amending to ensure sustainability of environment, economy, and social structure.

8) Write a new subsection that describes how ecosystem health and ecological sustainability is being maintained or improved by the concerted action of the AA plan.

Provide text in the plan that directly discusses how the AA plan serves to maintain the health of the area's ecosystems by ensuring that a) renewable resource uses are sustainable; b) non-renewable resource uses are environmentally sound; c) biological diversity is maintained; and d) negative effects from all uses are minimized. This is required so that the plan principles are met.

9) Write a new subsection that discusses the process for determining the allowable harvest of timber.

10) Write a new subsection that describes the cultural and spiritual values that should be respected for Aboriginal people and stakeholders in general. Alternatively, a new principle could be added that explicitly introduces these descriptions as values to be respected. This is necessary so that the objectives and principles can be unambiguously applied to specific situations.

11) Write a more detailed discussion on the integration of planning processes across jurisdictions and geographical areas. This is necessary so that implementation of the plan is unambiguous.

12) Write a new subsection listing the traditional uses of the land that have a high value to residents in the planning area. This is necessary so that the objectives and principles can be unambiguously applied to specific situations.

13) Write a new subsection that lists and prioritizes the funding requirements and budgets for implementation of the AA plan, linked to relevant recommendations and action items. This is necessary so that the plan is practical and achieveable.

14) Write a more detailed description of the inter-relationships among the various players in implementing the AA plan.